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Emerge Innovation Hub to host annual listening session Tuesday

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — A nonprofit is helping local entrepreneurs launch and grow their businesses.

Emerge Innovation Hub recently launched in Niles and is gearing up to host its next meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14 at Apothica Teas. The hub meets the second Tuesday of every month at Apothica Teas to connect new and aspiring entrepreneurs and to share ideas and support over food and music.

Founded by Andrew Robison and Regional Director Ambie Bell – out of Benton Harbor – Emerge Innovation Hub to life aims to create a transformative space where under-resourced and disadvantaged entrepreneurs can access the tools, support and community needed to launch and grow their businesses. After three years of success in Benton Harbor, the vision expanded with the launch of the Niles Hub in January of 2024.

Niles Hub Director KC Johnson said she has been inspired to witness what she calls the life-changing impact the hub has had on local entrepreneurs.

"By providing invaluable resources, sharing essential tools, and cultivating a sense of belonging, camaraderie, and even family, the hub has become a cornerstone for the entrepreneurial community in and around Niles," she said. "We're thrilled to continue empowering dreams and building success stories as we move into another exciting year."

For more information, email KC Johnson at kcjohnson@emergeinnovationhub.org.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Edwardsburg school board welcomes new member, elects officers

By JUSTIN FLAGEL
Leader Publications Contributor

EDWARDSBURG — The Edwardsburg School Board swore in new and returning members during its first regular meeting of 2025.

Taking the Oath of Office was new board member Nick Yoder as well as returning members Tammy Niemier and Anthony Overmyer. They will each serve a six year term.

The board also elected officers, choosing Overmyer as Board President and trustee Natalie Frentz as Vice President. Also appointed was Tammy Niemier as Secretary and Justin Kimbrell as Treasurer.

Continuing the business of the year, the board adopted an Organizational Resolution, officially recognizing Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Cheryl Steele in the continuing role of Recording Secretary and making official the financial institutions used as depositories, as well as those authorized to sign checks and conduct financial business on behalf of the district.

Superintendent Dr. Courtney Szucs recognized the work of the board during the last year, including the passing of the district bond and the adoption of a new strategic plan and new safety plan.

The recognition was a small part of the celebration of School Board Recognition Month, which took up the bulk of the meeting. The board was honored with multiple student led presentations from several grades, as well as the Edwardsburg Parent Teacher Conference. They also received several tokens of appreciation, including student-made "school board survival kits".

Szucs also recognized December's Support Staff Team Member of the Month, Zach Wenrick, a mechanic in the transportation department. Szucs read comments from Wenrick's nominator, which noted him as "irreplaceable". Along with the recognition, he received a gift basket from Culver's Restaurant, who sponsors the award.

'PLACE OF THE RAPIDS'

City, Pokagon Band install new Pawating sign

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Nestled near the St. Joseph River is a new sign installed to both honor and recognize the rich Indigenous history of the Niles area.

The City of Niles and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi recently collaborated to install a new Pawating River marker sign along the river across the street from Corewell Health Lakeland Hospital.

Designed by Tribal Artist Justin Johnson with assistance from Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Language Specialist Kyle Malott the sign features the text "Pawating," which means "place of the rapids," and Senathwen Zibe, meaning "rocky river."

"If you go back in history, the river was about 12 feet lower than it is today," Malott said. "There are a lot of big rocks and boulders at the bottom of the river. Because of that, the river was real rapid-ey, which is why we call the area Pawating."

"We named geographic places to reflect what was or is there," said Pokagon Band Representation Outreach Board Vice Chair Julie Dye. "Pawating celebrates the spirit of the land."

See SIGN, Page A8

PAWATING
Place of the Rapids
SENATHWEN ZIBÉ
Rocky River
The flags of settlers from four countries flew over this village of Pawating before it became known as Niles in 1829.
HISTORICAL BIKE TRAIL

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
The City of Niles and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi recently collaborated to install a new Pawating River marker sign along the river across the street from Corewell Health Lakeland Hospital.

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Campus living

SMC trustees tour new McKenzie housing

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — Wednesday, Southwestern Michigan College's Board of Trustees capped a morning of strategic planning updates with an afternoon monthly business meeting and a tour of the housing units recently added to the second and third floors of Keith H. McKenzie Hall.

Last January, the board approved the addition of new rooms with living capacity of 36 beds to the three existing residence halls on the Dowagiac campus to address growing housing demand.

Three bids were opened on May 8, with a contract awarded to E&L Construction Group of Flint, which has a Berrien Springs office.

Construction of 12 rooms in McKenzie and William M. White Hall took place over the summer. Thomas F. Jerdon Hall will be completed next summer.

Architect Tony Leininger of Carmi Design Group in Niles accompanied the board, highlighting the

See CAMPUS, Page A8

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Trustee Becky Moore, President Odenwald and Trustee Todd Obren tour the housing units recently added to the second and third floors of Keith H. McKenzie Hall.

OBITUARIES
Mary Anderson
Donald Dahm
Rebeckah Blake-Barringer
Syles Wayne Hodge
Donald Uselton
Arianne Baker
Leonora Ayers
Patrica Forrest
A6

FRANKLY
TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS
"Notre Dame could-go-all-the-way!" A2

Lady Eddies' defense slows down Portage Central in 45-27 non-league win B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call Frankly at (269) 687-7702 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

Go Lions! You have made me so proud!

I'm a little disappointed in all of the Presidential pardons. I know all Presidents do it, but geez, vicious murderers getting their life back when they had no problem taking one. Everyone is sorry when they're caught, convicted and sent to prison behind bars.

The new interchange at 51 and 12 is a bad joke. We waited all this time for this nonsense?

These wars need to stop and the US needs to stop funding them. We have so many issues at home that need fixing that we can't afford to send our assets outside of our country. We have done more than our fair share.

Trump may not be the best PR person for the job, but he seems to be pretty straightforward with what he says he is going to do.

Notre Dame could-go-all-the-way!

As a small business owner, the tariffs will kill my business. I don't think people realize how destructive tariffs are and that the cost only gets absorbed by the customers and when they stop buying, it crushes local business. This is a bad idea.

Trump wanted Biden to add another 5 trillion of debt so he wouldn't have to do the dirty work on the debt ceiling. Well, let's see how the party of "fiscal responsibility and family values" deals with this one.

Grocery prices are killing me. $4 for a dozen eggs is outrageous. As if my healthcare prices weren't bad enough.

Best place to find a good used car in Southwest Michigan?

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly Cloudy	50% Chance of Snow	50% Chance of Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	30% Chance of Snow
28° 20°	29° 27°	29° 15°	17° 13°	21° 19°	27° 21°

UNITED WAY SEEKS BOARD, COMMITTEE MEMBERS

COMMUNITY REPORT

ST. JOSEPH — United Way of Southwest Michigan (UWSM) is calling on passionate community members to bring their time, energy, and talents to either our Board of Directors, or one of our dedicated committees. This is a unique opportunity to play a key role in driving the mission of improving lives in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties.

As a member of the Board or a Committee, you'll have the chance to make a meaningful difference in your community, expand your network, and gain valuable leadership experience. You'll help shape the strategies and initiatives that create lasting impact for residents across Southwest Michigan.

"Applying to be part of our Board or a Committee is truly one of the best ways to understand all of the work being done in and around the community," stated Gokul Nair, United Way of Southwest Michigan Board of Directors Vice Chair and CIO of KitchenAid Small Appliances. "Because of UWSM's connections to 49 non-profit impact partners, and great funded programs like VITA Tax Preparation, this is an incredible opportunity to help the organization continue its mission to create a united & resilient community."

Board Chair Tim Smith agreed. "I can't emphasize enough how important it is to have fresh perspectives and strong voices guiding our mission. United Way thrives because of leaders who care deeply about their community. This is a chance to make a real impact while working alongside others who are just as passionate about making a difference."

Board member responsibilities include:

- Advocating for UWSM's mission and programs
- Providing leadership through oversight, policy-setting, and promoting the organization
- Offering an annual financial gift to support UWSM's vital work
- Attending six Board meetings annually, with terms beginning in March

Committees, which meet every other month opposite Board meeting months, focus on key areas like:

- Financial Health
- Governance of the organization
- Community Impact
- Resource Development

UWSM is looking for individuals who demonstrate accountability, integrity, and a passion for improving the lives of local residents. While prior Board or Committee experience is welcome, it's not required. Applicants should bring skills and perspectives that complement our team and a commitment to serving the Southwest Michigan community.

Applications are due by January 28, 2025. Interested individuals can read the full qualifications and apply, at uwsm.org/board-committee-application.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
United Way of Southwest Michigan Board Vice Chair Gokul Nair volunteers to make a difference in the community.

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Brandywine school board elects new officers

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — The Brandywine Board of Education has new leadership after Monday's organizational meeting for the 2025 year. Board members also voted on other items including ending the district's adult education program after next year.

Board members elected Jessica Crouch as the new board president, succeeding Elaine McKee who had served in that post for the last year. John Jarpe will remain as board vice-president and Holly Pomranka as board secretary. Michelanne McCombs is the new board treasurer, succeeding Brian Burge who did not run for re-election.

The officers will serve for one year until January, 2026.

The change in leadership means that only one of the four board members elected in November, 2022 is a board officer. The four elected then, McCombs, McKee, Thomas Payne and Angela Seastrom were all elected as board officers in January, 2023. Payne and Seastrom have resigned from the board since then.

Board members discussed but did not act on changing the length of board terms. Board terms are currently four years and board members could decide to change them to six year terms.

Superintendent Travis Walker noted that about 60 percent of school boards in Michigan have six year terms. He said districts like Brandywine decided on four year terms because it was thought that it is difficult to get people to run for six year terms.

While that might be true, Walker said that having four year terms means that there are potentially three or four new board members every two years. He said that if the length of the board term is changed, there would be two and at the most three board seats up for election every two years.

Board members also discussed adding student body representation to the school board. Walker said that some districts already have that in place which gives students the opportunity to speak directly to the school board and gives school boards the perspective and input of students.

He said he would develop an application process for students to apply for these posts. Ultimately, the goal would be to have two student representatives to the board every year, he said.

In other board organization action, board members approved the meeting schedule for 2025. The new schedule has board meetings start at 6 p.m. rather than 6:30 p.m. and be held at more locations around the district. Most board meetings have been held recently in the Middle/High School media center.

There will also be more meetings this year. The board had eight months in 2024 where there was just one meeting scheduled, while the number of months with just one meeting will go down to five months in 2025. He said more meetings are necessary at some points during the year to handle district business timely and it will cost an extra $630.

Board members voted to close the adult education program at the end of the 2026-27 school year. Walker noted last month that there are only eight students in the program right now and four of them are likely to graduate this year. He said he's already talked to Niles school officials and they are able to take any students displaced by the Brandywine move.

He pointed out both last month and Monday that the move will free up Special Education Director Elise Sorenson and Assistant Superintendent Ray Wilburn to have more time for their other duties. He said the program can be reinstated if the situation changes and more people need adult education services.

Discussion items addressed Monday included what the cycle should be for superintendent evaluations and how to handle background checks for district volunteers. A new state law allows school boards to not evaluate superintendents annually but every two or three years if they have received the highest evaluation rating.

While no action was taken on the last item, board members did vote to allow a long time local resident to continue to volunteer as a youth basketball coach. A recent background check on the man showed he had had a felony conviction more than two decades ago. The board will now develop a policy to handle such situations in the future.

LMC honors 2024 Alumni Award recipients

COMMUNITY REPORT

BENTON HARBOR — Lake Michigan College has announced the winners of its 2024 Alumni Awards, recognizing outstanding achievements and contributions by graduates who have made significant impacts in their fields and communities.

Three awards are given annually; the Alumni Achievement Award, the Gladys Peeples-Burks Alumni Service Award, and the Clarence Beckwith Distinguished Service Award.

This year's honorees exemplify the college's core values of excellence, leadership, and service.

Alumni Achievement Award

The Alumni Achievement Award is presented to recent alumni who have attended LMC within the past 15 years, demonstrated significant achievement, and distinguished themselves in their career, education, or community.

2024 award recipient: Matthew Capps, Class of 2010

Matthew Capps isn't one to seek the spotlight. Instead, he prefers to focus on serving others—a passion he has cultivated through his time at Lake Michigan College.

A 2010 graduate of LMC's Nursing program, Capps now serves as the supervising clinical coordinator at Holland Hospital while pursuing his master's degree in nursing at Western Governors University. This year, LMC is proud to recognize him as the recipient of the 2024 Alumni Achievement Award.

Capps' dedication to his field was put to the test during the COVID-19 pandemic when he worked on the front lines in the emergency department at Holland Hospital. This challenging experience inspired him to deepen his commitment to community health, leading to his role on the Ottawa County Community Health Advisory Council and motivating him to further his education.

Matthew was nominated for the Alumni Achievement Award by his brother, Phil Capps. "I nominated Matt because he's taken the skills he learned at LMC and built a remarkable career," said Phil. "He's a humble person who never brags, even though he has achieved so much. Matt has held numerous positions at Holland Hospital and has guided various departments through both challenging times and significant improvements."

While Matt might not boast about his successes, his actions speak volumes. Friends, family, and colleagues know him as a mentor, educator, and leader whose work truly makes a difference.

Gladys Peeples-Burks Alumni Service Award

This award is named after Dr. Gladys Peeples-Burks, a member of the first graduating class of Benton Harbor Junior College (now Lake Michigan College) and tireless advocate for the College and her community. It recognizes alumni who have made significant personal or professional contributions to the College or the broader community.

2024 Award Recipient: Reverend William Whitfield, Class of 1974

Reverend William Whitfield has dedicated his life to serving both his community and his country, donning many hats along the way. In his roles as a United States Air Force veteran, pastor, volunteer for the local housing commission, and mentor for youth in the Benton Harbor area, Whitfield has consistently made a difference.

See HONORS, Page A7

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet **Pierce**, a dog with Berrien County Animal Services. Volunteers said Pierce's handsomeness is matched by unwavering loyalty and a keen mind. Driven by a mission to serve and play, he is eager to please. He thrives on activity and mental challenges. His spirited dedication makes him a perfect partner for a walk or car ride. Pierce is friendly and good for a family with older kids or a police/military family. He is good with other dogs but not cats. Pierce is housetrained, neutered and currents on shots. Contact Berrien County Animal Services at (269) 927-5648.

SEMCO ENERGY ASKS CUSTOMERS TO KEEP METERS CLEAR OF SNOW AND ICE

During the winter, here are a few ways to help protect gas meter equipment and gas appliances to avoid a potentially hazardous situation or service disruption:

- Clean and repair leaky seams in your gutters and down spouts to prevent melting snow and ice from building up on the gas meter or pressure regulator.
- Never allow snow to cover your natural gas meter or its pressure regulator or block your appliance exhaust vents.
- Please use caution when shoveling snow, plowing or snow blowing to avoid piling snow against the natural gas meter, regulator or appliance vents.
- Clear a path to the meter free from snow and ice for easy access.
- Remove soft snow build-up gently, using only a broom or your hand rather than a shovel that could damage the meter.
- Do not try to remove ice or frozen snow from the natural gas meter pressure regulator or piping. If you find your meter or pressure regulator covered in ice or frozen snow, do not attempt to remove the ice or use de-icer.

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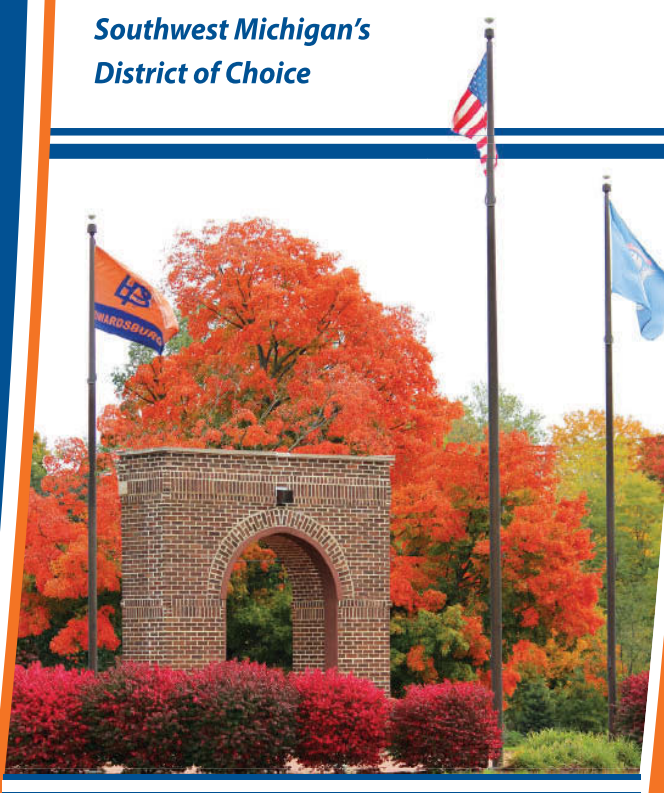

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SECOND SEMESTER 2024-2025 SCHOOL OF CHOICE OPENINGS

Kindergarten	1	Seventh Grade	1
First Grade	3	Eighth Grade	1
Second Grade	1	Ninth Grade	1
Third Grade	1	Tenth Grade	1
Fourth Grade	1	Eleventh Grade	1
Fifth Grade	1	Twelfth Grade	None
Sixth Grade	1		

Applications are available and being accepted electronically, January 6-17, 2025, at www.edwardsburgpublicschools.org for any Kindergarten - 12th grade student living in Cass County and contiguous districts in Berrien, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties. Please complete a separate application for each student.

For more information, contact Kimberly Slack at 269-663-3055 or kslack@goeddies.com.

Additional spots will be considered as they become available.

Opinion

The $423 Phone Call

By RICH CAINS
Publisher, Leader Publications

Heated debate and fierce emotions are often present when engaging in conversation regarding the business of our nation's healthcare system. There is plenty of finger pointing as to the causes of skyrocketing insurance premiums as well as the cost of medical services provided. Hospitals, physicians, insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, drug stores, employers, attorneys and even politicians are all stirred into the spicy healthcare soup.

It is not uncommon to be satisfied with the services provided by your local healthcare provider. We live in a country where adequate medical services are generally available. This certainly is not the case in many countries. It is also not uncommon to hear the rants about the price Americans must pay to have these accommodations as well as the medical debt families incur. I often hear "you can't put a price on good quality health care." True, but price is absolutely a concern when you get the bill from someone who put a price on it and mailed it to you.

Cains

Privatization of healthcare is often discussed as a possible means to hold down out of pocket costs, yet few Americans are willing to pay 50 percent of their income toward taxation to help support such a plan. Canada has a plan, but many drawbacks exist in their system when looking at timeliness of services, for example.

The finger pointing for blame is everywhere. Hospitals buy expensive equipment, and this equipment must be maintained. Technicians require schooling to operate the equipment. According to EducationData.org, the average cost of a medical school degree is $238,420. Surgical and other specialties are far more. Factoring in liability and the demand for qualified care givers is no wonder why costs are high.

On the flipside, insurance companies blame the rising costs on hospital administration increases, lack of competition due to mergers and partnerships driving up provider costs.

For years United States pharmaceutical companies have been in the national spotlight for charging far more to US citizens than they do to those living in foreign countries. This higher price also comes after the US taxpayer pays billions in subsidizing the development of new drugs.

Physicians are frustrated when their procedures, tests or pharmaceuticals prescribed are denied by insurance companies. Physicians are angry and patients are caught in the middle. Slow pay to the hospital or physician by insurance is also a problem.

It is safe to say that many of us have been denied a medical claim and went through the process of filing a grievance, only to be denied again. This is especially frustrating after you called your insurance provider in advance and you have been told "yes, you should be ok according to your plan."

Recently, my wife and I have gone through a healthcare headache in dealing with an out-of-state provider and our insurance company. Two procedures were denied and then after phone calls back and forth by the provider and us, we managed to get hit with "only" $1,500 out-of-pocket. As a follow up to an MRI my wife had in Cleveland, the MRI was paid, but the contrast (chemical to help with visibility) was not. To me, that's like buying a tire to be mounted on your car and then being hit with another bill for the air. As a follow up to the MRI, my wife had scheduled a video conference with the doctor to discuss the MRI results. On the video conference call, the doctor's computer began having technical difficulties, so she told my wife to briefly wait for a phone call from her. The phone call lasted five minutes at best and my wife was told the MRI was "inconclusive" and that she needed to set up another test. The call ended. A month later we received a bill from the hospital for $423 for the phone call. Not only is $423 outrageous for a follow-up phone call for a test we had already paid for but the fact that our insurance company "only" pays for in-person and video calls, not phone calls.

I asked my insurance company "what do people without smartphones or computers do to avoid this travesty?" Her response was "that most insurance companies will not pay for a phone call with your doctor." All of these things contribute to the high cost of healthcare and when will we reach the breaking point?

I was so angered by the response from the insurance company as well as the $423 five-minute phone call charge, which if you are keeping track, works out to $5076 per hour or $40,608 for a standard eight-hour day, that I reached out to my Senator on his government email and told him this needs to change. About an hour later I received an email back from him thanking me for taking the time to write to him with my concerns about "animal cruelty and product testing on animals." What???

So, in closing I will say this, our healthcare system needs help and all of the players must step forward and find a path to common sense and fairness. Also, it seems that when it comes to healthcare, some politicians do not know the difference between human beings and lab rats.

NEWS

Niles man gets probation for larceny

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Several area residents were sentenced for a variety of crimes Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse.

A contractor was sentenced to probation after not completing a renovation job he was paid for.

Robert Stephen Jernigan, 69, of Niles, pleaded guilty to larceny by conversion $1,000 to $20,000 and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for two days served, $258 in fines and costs and $11,100 in restitution.

Jernigan

The incident occurred June 12, 2023 in Bertrand Township.

Defense attorney Daniel French noted that Jernigan had serious health problems including lung cancer that kept him from finishing the job.

"He took the contracting job and he anticipated completing it before he got sick," French said. "He admits he took the money, he's very sorry for his actions."

"I'm sorry for what happened, I didn't plan for it to happen," Jernigan said. "Hopefully I will be able to get back to work. I'm on a fixed income and I don't have enough to cover what is owed. I'm trying to get well so I can get back to work."

"I empathize that you have issues to overcome but she's out a lot of money," said Judge Gordon Hosbein. "You didn't do the work and didn't give back the money. I have to be sympathetic to the victim."

He agreed with French that requiring Jernigan to pay restitution as part of his probation could be a "recipe for a disaster" and a probation violation but said it could also be a motivator for Jernigan to pay the money back.

"Too often we lose track of the victim who is out a lot of money," he added.

Jernigan was ordered to pay $100 a month in restitution for a few months until he can go back to work and earn more money so that the restitution can be paid off in two years.

A Benton Harbor woman was sentenced to prison after stealing items from the Eau Claire Dollar General store.

Kotina Lashay Atkins, 38, of Benton Harbor pleaded guilty to first degree retail fraud and was sentenced to 18 months to five years in prison. She has credit for 118 days already served. She was ordered to pay $198 in fines and costs and $500 in restitution.

Atkins

The incident occurred July 30, 2024 in Eau Claire.

Judge Gordon Hosbein noted that this was Atkins' 31st criminal conviction with 23 prior misdemeanors and seven prior felonies. He called it a serious crime that required serious consequences.

"Her record is pretty extensive," Assistant Prosecutor Jerry Vigansky said. "She's been to prison before."

French said Atkins suffers from mental health and substance abuse problems. He asked the judge to consider a probationary sentence, pointing out that she has charges in Indiana to resolve.

Atkins said she has gotten back on her medications and would like to get treatment. "I know what I did was wrong," she said. "I'm going to AA, substance abuse and parenting classes. I want to get back to my children who are being cared for by my grandmother."

A Berrien Springs man was sentenced to jail and probation for domestic violence which was reduced from child abuse.

Michael Tyrane Pallas, 31, of Berrien Springs, pleaded guilty to domestic violence and was sentenced to 60 days in jail with credit for two days served, $198 in fines and costs and $915.83 in restitution. He must take parenting, anger management and mental health classes.

Pallas

The incident occurred May 15, 2024 in Berrien Springs.

Judge Hosbein noted that while there is currently an active Child Protective Services case involving the child in this incident as well as another, he thinks more monitoring is needed.

Vigansky called the injuries sustained by the child "brutal" and recommended probation and some jail time.

Defense attorney Carri Briseno agreed that Pallas could benefit from the parenting and other classes but asked for no additional jail as he is the sole breadwinner of the family. She said that Pallas was "visibly upset" and "truly remorseful" when he saw photos of the child he had injured.

"I'm sorry, there is no excuse for what I did, I regret my actions," Pallas said. "Saying I'm sorry is not enough, I would like to get help."

"This is one of those cases of a perpetual cycle of abuse," Judge Hosbein said. "Abuse was imposed on you as a child, I understand you had a rough childhood but that's no excuse to do that to others. You're old enough to understand you can't do these things to kids."

"I'm not sure you understood the gravity of the situation," he added. "You said you were upset when you saw the pictures. Maybe it triggered something in you but it was also the fact you were caught this time. I think a period of incarceration will benefit you and the community. You have to understand that your actions have consequences."

In other sentencings:

• Christopher Allen Boyce, 35, of Niles, pleaded guilty to two counts of larceny in a building and was sentenced to nine months in jail and $366 in fines and costs. He has no credit for time served as he is on parole. The incident occurred June 23, 2024 in Niles Township.

Boyce

• Christopher Allen Hidalgo, 35, of Constantine, pleaded guilty to domestic violence and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for three days served, 90 days tether and $525 in fines and costs. The incident occurred Aug. 7, 2024 in Niles.

Hidalgo

• Zachary Tyler Mishler, 24, pleaded guilty to domestic violence and was sentenced to one year probation, 50 days in jail with credit for one day served and $400 in fines and costs. The incident occurred June 19, 2024 in Niles.

• Matthew Anthony Onik, 25, of Galien, pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon and was sentenced to credit for 76 days served and $943 in fines, costs and restitution. The incident occurred Aug. 23, 2024 in Galien.

Onik

State of Indiana, Pokagon Band sign government accord

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The State of Indiana and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians announced Monday the signing of a government accord between the parties which provides a framework for further fostering a strong, reliable, and respectful government-to-government relationship.

"This accord provides a framework to work collaboratively for the mutual benefit of our citizens. I've sincerely enjoyed learning about Pokagon history and culture as well as getting to know and work with Chairman Wesaw," said Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb.

"As the first federally-recognized Tribe in the State of Indiana, the Pokagon Band has been very pleased with the positive working relationship we've enjoyed with Governor Holcomb and his administration over several years," added Matthew Wesaw, Pokagon Band Tribal Council Chairman. "This Accord signifies another historic milestone in our partnership, and I would personally like to thank him for his willingness to complete this process before the end of his second term. His contributions and accomplishments for all of the citizens of the great State of Indiana are part of a lasting legacy he can be proud of."

About The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan and Indiana

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi's sovereignty was reaffirmed under legislation signed into law by President Clinton in September of 1994. The Pokagon Band is dedicated to providing community development initiatives such as housing, education, family services, medical care and cultural preservation for its more than 6,000 citizens. The Pokagon Band's ten-county service area includes four counties in Southwestern Michigan and six in Northern Indiana. Its main administrative offices are in Dowagiac, Mich., with a satellite office in South Bend, Ind. In 2007, it opened Four Winds Casino Resort in New Buffalo, Mich., followed by Four Winds Hartford in 2011, Four Winds Dowagiac in 2013 and Four Winds South Bend in January 2018. The Pokagon Band operates a variety of non-gaming businesses through its investment enterprises, Mno-Bmadsen and the Pokagon Development Authority. More information is available at www.pokagonband-nsn.gov, www.fourwindscasino.com and www.mno-bmadsen.com.

Niles Daily Star

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COMICS & PUZZLES

ADAM

MAYBE YOU'RE TOO OLD FOR "SHEER TERROR HILL."
WHAT?? IT'S THE BEST SLEDDING HILL IN TOWN.
I WAS A LEGEND ON THAT HILL WHEN I WAS YOUNG.
DAD! SOMEONE CAUGHT YOUR FALL ON VIDEO! IT'S GOING VIRAL!
I LIKE WHEN YOU PINBALLED BETWEEN THE THREE BOULDERS.
OH! OH! OH!
LEGEND STATUS: INTACT!

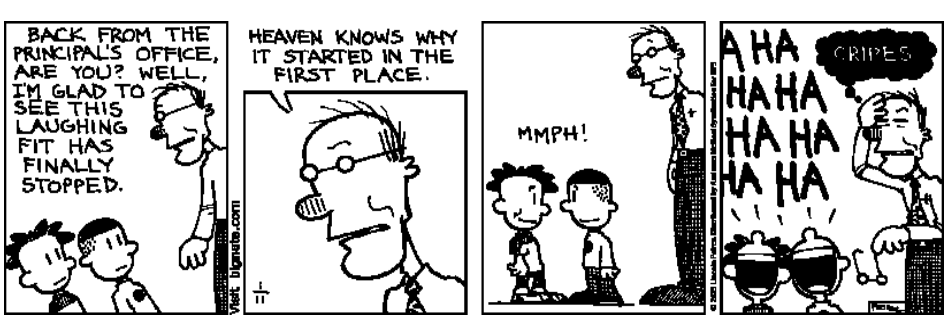
ALLEY OOP

THIS VILLAGE IS SO PLEASANT. I WONDER WHAT IT'S CALLED.
IT'S CALLED "THE CURSED GATE TO HELL."!
DON'T WORRY, THOUGH. IT'S AN IRONIC NAME. LIKE WHEN THEY CALL A BIG GUY "TINY."
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
IT'S "MOODY," BUT IT'S NOT IRONIC.
MY NICKNAME IS "DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THIS CONVERSATION"!

ARLO & JANIS

THIS SERIES IS GETTING KIND OF SILLY.
YEH, THE PLOT'S SO ABSURD.
AND THEY JUST DRAG EVERYTHING OUT.
I'M READY TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE.
BUT THE CLIFF-HANGERS ARE GREAT!
I'LL MAKE POPCORN.

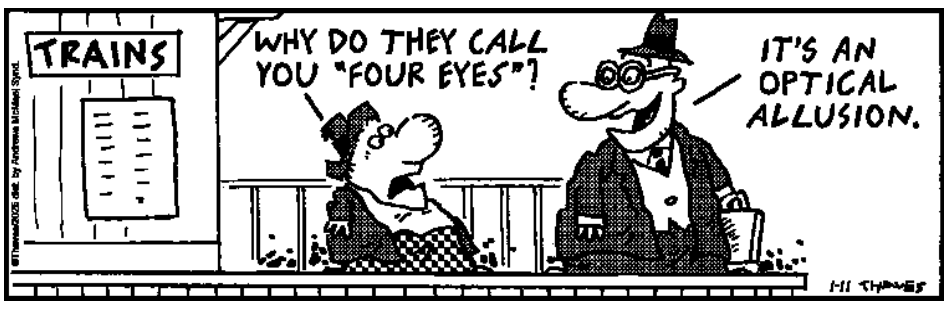
BIG NATE


BACK FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE, ARE YOU? WELL, I'M GLAD TO SEE THIS LAUGHING FIT HAS FINALLY STOPPED.
HEAVEN KNOWS WHY IT STARTED IN THE FIRST PLACE.
MMPH!
A HA HA HA HA HA HA
GRIPES

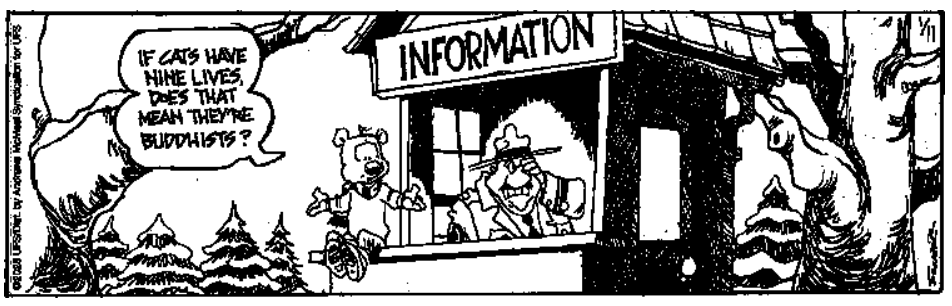
BORN LOSER

IT SEEMS LIKE THE FINAL TWO MINUTES OF BASKETBALL GAMES LAST HALF AN HOUR!
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S WHEN THE MOST IMPORTANT STRATEGIC MOVES THAT AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF THE GAME TAKE PLACE.
THEN WHY DON'T THEY JUST START THE GAMES WITH TWO MINUTES TO GO?

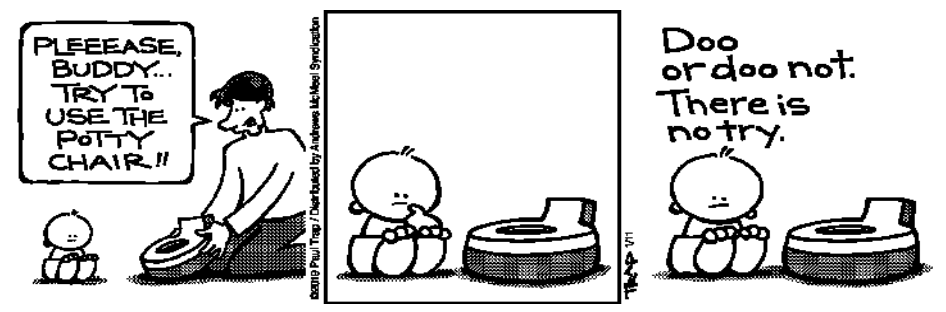
FRANK & ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS



THATABABY



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SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

		7	6	5	3			
	9				8			5
		8		9				
6		3	1			5		
5				8				3
		9			5	2		1
				2		6		
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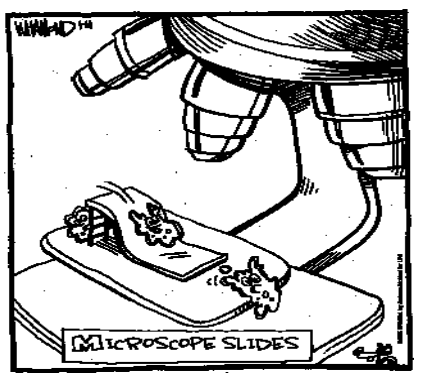
			9	6	7	1		

MODERATELY CONFUSED

REALITY CHECK

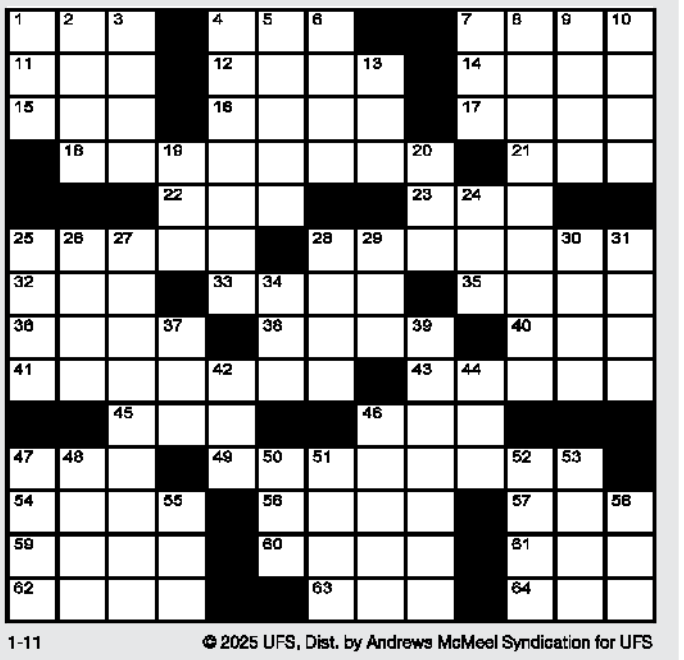


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Unrefined
4 PreCheck org.
7 Blow
11 Pub pint
12 Libertine
14 Machu Picchu builder
15 Buddy
16 Dismounted
17 Unwanted email
18 Refinement
21 Mine's output
22 Get hitched
23 Gratuity
25 Ran against
28 Characteristic
32 Yoko —
33 School in New Haven
35 Error
36 007
38 Lash mark
40 Mimic
41 Put up with
43 Pony
45 Numero —
46 Unassuming dog
47 "Abbott Elementary" network
49 3-sided figure
54 Allows
56 Lacking rain
57 Climbing plant
59 On the summit of
60 Times past
61 Ocean
62 Poet — Teasdale
63 Neither's partner
64 Clumsy boat

DOWN
1 Knock
2 Wings
3 Healthy
4 Disastrous event
5 Leafy lunch
6 Related by blood
7 USO audience
8 Out of favor
9 Wound mark
10 Manageable
13 Catchall abbr.
19 Fleecy animal
20 Letter after zeta
24 "— a girl!"
25 Judge's garment
26 Soon
27 Worker on a train
28 Ran off
29 Moray
30 Tears
31 Fencing sword
34 Solemn fear
37 Demand payment from
39 Lightning partner
42 Decay
44 Assoc.
46 Egypt's capital
47 "Oh, woe!"
48 Greek letter
50 Sunbeam
51 Press
52 One of the Simpsons
53 At any time
55 Health club
58 Yammer

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



1-11

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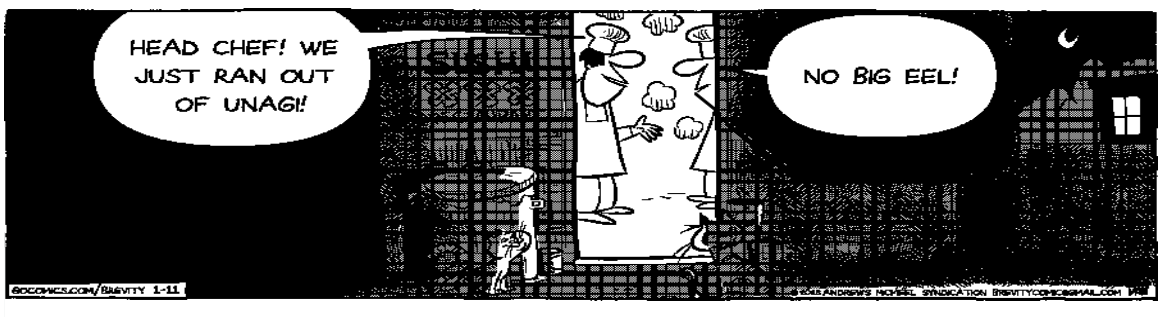
BREVITY



HEART OF THE CITY

BUY
NEW ARRIVALS
DO YOU WANT TO KEEP THE JACKET I GAVE YOU?
OF COURSE I WANT TO KEEP THE JACKET! IT REMINDS ME OF OUR GOOD TIMES.
SNATCH!
GOOD TIMES LIKE TODAY?
YEAH, LIKE TODAY.

DEATH NOTICES

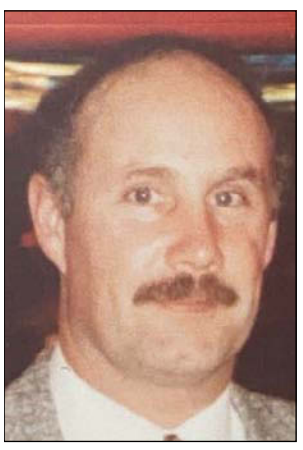
Mary Anderson, 101, of Dowagiac, passed away on January 01, 2025. A service to take place January 10, 2025, at Brown Funeral Home at 12:00pm, visitation an hour prior. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Donald Dahm, 86, of Niles, passed away Friday, January 03, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, of Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Rebeckah Blake-Barringer, 56, of Colorado Springs, passed January 1, 2025. Funeral services will be January 25, 2025 at 11am at Hope Community Church-Niles. Arrangements entrusted to Brown Funeral Home. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Syles Wayne Hodge, 11, passed away on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 in Niles Michigan. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

OBITUARIES



Donald Uselton

December 6, 1953 - December 24, 2024

Donald Eugene Uselton, age 71, of Fort Myers Beach, Florida, passed away on December 24, 2024. He was born on December 6, 1953, in Roswell, New Mexico, and moved to Mishawaka, Indiana, when he was just one year old. He later settled in Niles, Michigan, where he graduated from Brandywine High School in 1972.

In the early 1980s, Don met Cherrie Rodgers, and they were married on July 8, 1985.

After many happy years in the Michiana area, they made their home in Fort Myers Beach, Florida, in 1996.

Don is survived by his beloved wife, Cherrie, and two children: Bryan Rodgers of South Bend, Indiana, and Jennifer Rodgers Hall of Buchanan, Michigan. He is also cherished by his grandchildren, Amelia and Norah Rodgers, and Austin and Christian Hall. Don's legacy will live on through his great-grandchildren, Ryan DeFreez, Annabell and Peyton Hall, and Scout Hall.

He is also survived by his brother, Ronnie Uselton, his wife Deb Uselton, and their children: Sarah Uselton Newton, Travis Uselton, and Calvin Uselton.

Don had a passion for working with his hands, beginning his career at Torrington Bearings before starting his own construction business, Atlas Construction, in Niles, Michigan. He enjoyed many hobbies, including fishing, snow skiing, collecting, and working on cars. Don was known for being the life of the party, always bringing laughter and joy to those around him.

Don's life was impacted by Parkinson's disease, which he bravely battled for 31 years.

In his honor, the family requests that donations be made to the Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Foundation (https://www.michaeljfox.org/).

There will not be any formal services; however, a Celebration of Life is being planned for the near future in the Michiana area.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Arianne Baker

June 20, 1984 - December 31, 2024

Arianne Baker of Perry Michigan passed away on December 31 at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing. She suffered a traumatic brain injury after a fall from which she was not able to recover.

Arianne was born June 20, 1984 in Berrien Springs Michigan and grew up in nearby Dowagiac. A kind and happy child, she made friends easily. She took dance classes and particularly loved tap. Arianne had a natural gift for languages, studying Spanish and German, and as an adult, learned Portuguese. She was also a talented artist, and was asked by her teachers to paint murals on their classroom walls and painted scenery for the high school prom. At Dowagiac Union High School she lettered in track and field, cross country and basketball. Though she may not have been the most talented athlete on her teams, she was known for her determination and sportsmanship. A high academic achiever, she was named Salutatorian of her graduating class in 2003.

Arianne graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's degree in Education from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. She completed an unprecedented double major in Art Education and Spanish Education, and was certified to teach both subjects. She later began a graduate program in Spanish at Middlebury College in Vermont. Arianne traveled to Europe and South America, with the goal of visiting every Spanish speaking country in the world. Additionally, she did volunteer work caring for infants in an orphanage in Santiago, Chile.

Following her college graduation, Arianne taught Spanish language and culture at the International Academy in White Lake, Michigan, where she was loved and respected by both her colleagues and students. In 2010, she suffered an unexpected seizure, with subsequent tests revealing stage three brain cancer. Her treatment required two surgeries, with unforeseen complications, followed by radiation therapy and eight months of physical therapy. This was supplemented by years of physical therapy and brain exercises that she designed herself. The nearly complete brain function she regained as well as her determination not to be defined by low expectations astonished both her doctors and all who knew her history.

When her injuries prevented a return to full-time teaching, she worked as a part-time pre-school teacher, and most recently as a home health care aide. Her clients were truly blessed by the compassion and inspiration she brought to her work each day.

Arianne was a woman of faith, and after returning to southwest Michigan, found her loving church family at First Presbyterian Church of Benton Harbor. Her creativity never diminished. She sang in the church choir, volunteered for church events, and continued to create art in charcoal, ink, sculpture and needlework, which she gifted to her many friends and family.

Arianne met her future husband and love of her life, Ryan Stemple, in 2019. Their first date was at a Panera restaurant, and it was love at first sight. They were married on October 16, 2021 in Grand Rapids, and made their home in Paw Paw Michigan, before purchasing a home in Perry in June of 2024. They shared a love of many genres of music, and it was not unusual for the two of them to break out in song while traveling to the beach, local parks, national parks and to visit friends and family. While they had no children, Arianne grew to cherish her fur baby, Ryan's cat Dora. A more perfect partnership could not have been found anywhere.

Arianne's life was characterized by the values of friendliness, kindness and generosity, which only intensified after her challenging recovery. In a final act of generosity, she donated her tissues to dozens of recipients through Gift of Life Michigan. Her loving spirit will be felt for years to come by her family, friends, and everyone whose lives she touched.

Arianne was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, John and Betty Jean Baker, and by her maternal grandparents, Norman and Barbara Leeser, and step grandmother Laura Leeser. She is survived and held dear by her husband Ryan, parents David and Jacqueline (Leeser) Baker, her brother Ben Baker and his wife Sheri (Benkert) Baker, her nephew Connor and niece Abigail.

Nelson House Funeral Home in Owosso is handling the arrangements. A memorial service is being planned for a later date.

Memorial gifts may be sent to: First Presbyterian Church of Benton Harbor, P.O. Box 186, Benton Harbor MI 49023.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at Nelson-House.com.

Leonora Ayers

September 6, 1924 - January 4, 2024

Leonora "Lee" Maria Ayers, 100, of Cassopolis, passed away peacefully on Saturday evening, January 4, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

Lee was born on September 6, 1924, in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, the eldest of four children to Thomas and Claire Caterino. She led a rich and fulfilling life, attending Antioch College, traveling throughout Europe, and working in New York City. During World War II, she served as a WAVE and later worked at Bendix in South Bend, where she met her future husband. Lee dedicated 27 years to Cassopolis Public Schools, retiring in 1987.

On June 24, 1954, she married Charles W. Ayers in South Bend, Indiana. After forty-four years of marriage, Charles preceded her in death in 1998. Lee was also preceded in death by her beloved sisters, Anita (Earl) Handley, Gilda (Will) Heider, and Carla (Burton) Cronin.

Lee took great pride in her family. She is survived by her three daughters, Lisa (Tim) Ayers-Touhey of Cassopolis, Gina (Dino) Signore of Grand Rapids, and Maria (Martin) Murphy of Frankfort, Illinois; her son, Thomas (Jessica) Ayers of Cassopolis; ten grandchildren, Daniel Murphy, Andria (Steve) Romkema, Patrick Murphy, Mike Murphy, Charles Ayers, Hannah (Jimmy) Kocab-Ayers, Laura (Cyris) Signore-Zeiders, Stuart Ayers, Joseph Touhey, and Amelia Ayers; and four great-grandchildren, Colin Murphy, Eva Murphy, Jamie Romkema, and Jack Romkema. She is also survived by her loved nieces and nephews, Patrick, Christina, Thomas, John, and Jack.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Lee be made to Cassopolis Public Schools, 22721 Diamond Cove Street, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Patrica Forrest

June 3, 1967 - December 31, 2024

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Patrica Lee Forrest on Tuesday, December 31, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. She was born April 4, 1943 in Cassopolis, Michigan to Theron and Cora (Lucas) Hunt, and grew up in a close-knit family with nine siblings. She was a devoted wife to Eddie Forrest, whom she was married June 3, 1967. Together they built a life full of love, family, and faith over almost sixty years.

Patrica graduated from Southwestern Michigan and served as a nurse for over forty years, dedicating her career to caring for others. She started at Lee Memorial Hospital in Dowagiac and simultaneously worked at Cass County Medical Care Facility in Cassopolis, Michigan. She added to her work schedule at Cardinal Nursing Home in South Bend, Indiana. She retired as the lead nurse for CCP which held a contract with the Marion County Jail for fourteen years. Beyond her professional life, she answered her calling as an evangelist, sharing her faith and compassion with everyone she met.

Her determination and dedication to her work was acknowledged by her being featured in Ebony Magazine in December 1965 for her role as an operator of the arc bender machine at Japhia Manufacturing in Cassopolis, Michigan. Patricia was a woman of great faith, courage, and resilience, exemplified by her loving spirit, feisty nature, and ability to forgive and uplift those

See OBITUAIRES, Page A7

Robert Clayton
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Enjoy a lunch & a show in 2025!
2-26-25 - Good Morning Vietnam – Hits from 1955-1975
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4-24-25 - Church Basement Ladies
5-21-25 - Nunsense
9-18-25 - Heartbreak Hotel
11-19-25 - The Naughty List
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CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

R	A	W		T	S	A			G	U	S	T		
A	L	E		R	A	K	E		I	N	C	A		
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O	N	O		Y	A	L	E		S	L	I	P		
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S	A	R	A			N	O	R		A	R	K		

SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

1	4	7	6	5	3	9	8	2
2	9	6	7	1	8	3	4	5
3	5	8	4	9	2	7	1	6
6	2	3	1	4	9	5	7	8
5	7	1	2	8	6	4	9	3
4	8	9	3	7	5	2	6	1
9	1	5	8	2	4	6	3	7
7	6	4	5	3	1	8	2	9
8	3	2	9	6	7	1	5	4

MEC opens applications for trade school, college scholarships

COMMUNITY REPORT

CASSOPOLIS — Midwest Energy and Communications is offering four $1,000 scholarships to local high school seniors toward their trade school or college education.

Additionally, up to two winners will be able to apply for a second scholarship after completing their first year of trade school or college.

To be eligible to apply, students must:

• Receive monthly service from MEC at their family's primary residence.

• Submit an official transcript.

• Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a four-point scale.

Students must complete a brief video challenge to apply. Winners are chosen based on video submissions, as well as:

• Academic performance

• Extracurricular activities

• Community involvement and/or employment

• Honors and awards

Children of MEC employees and board members are NOT eligible to apply.

The deadline to apply is Monday, March 17, 2025. Winners will be announced in the spring.

To apply, visit teammidwest.com/about-us/community/scholarships/.

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Berrien County Health Department warns community of underage vaping risks

COMMUNITY REPORT

BENTON HARBOR — The Berrien County Health Department's Substance Use Disorder Prevention Team is warning the community of the risks associated with underage vaping and has launched an educational campaign to raise awareness.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2023, nearly half of U.S. youth who have tried a vape reported continued use. In 2023, vapes were the most used tobacco product used among middle and high school students in the U.S.

Electronic vapor devices heat a liquid and produce an aerosol or mix of small particles in the air. Many are composed of a battery, a heating element and a place to hold liquid. They come in a variety of sizes and may be shaped like everyday items, such as pens or highlighters.

> "These harmful vaping products are aimed at children and teens through their colorful packaging and trendy flavors, introducing nicotine to users who are not fully aware of the health risks of the product itself."
> — **Lisa Peeples-Hurst**

According to the FDA's Annual Youth Tobacco Survey, most vapes were reported to be flavored and mimicked candy, desserts and other sweets, which appeal to young people.

"These harmful vaping products are aimed at children and teens through their colorful packaging and trendy flavors, introducing nicotine to users who are not fully aware of the health risks of the product itself," said Lisa Peeples-Hurst, BCHD's public health promotion and prevention supervisor. "That is why it is essential for parents and caregivers to lead conversations with their teens about the dangers of vaping and the importance of developing healthy lifestyle habits."

Some of the negative side effects already known include:

• Cognitive problems, such as negative effect on memory, mood and attention.

• Physical problems, such as increased risk of lung disease, cancer, high blood pressure and heart attack.

• Mental health problems, such as greater levels of anxiety and depression.

• Injuries, such as severe burns from device malfunction.

Parents and caregivers seeking to reduce their child's risk of underage substance misuse can begin having conversations using these resources from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

For more information about preventing underage vaping and tobacco use, visit bit.ly/EscapeTheVape or contact Lisa Peeples-Hurst at lpeepleshurst@bchdmi.org or (269) 927-5690.

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BIBLE TRUTHS
Join us in the exciting world of Bible Truths. Learn from the bible how we got here? Did the New Testament take the place of the Old Testament? Can a nice person get to heaven? If we give a lot of our time to doing good for others will that get us to heaven? Does God cause bad things to happen to us in our life? Do we really have a guardian Angel? Do we go to Heaven of Hell when we die? What does the 4th commandment mean? Why is Sunday the day of the worship? Why does it matter what day we worship on. Do people who give a lot to the church get priority in going to heaven? Is Jesus ever coming back? These are just a few of the exciting subjects we are going to cover in our series of
Bible Truths: Reserve a spot today by emailing Carlson7071@att.net Study starts on Feb 3, 2025 at the Niles Senior Center at 1109 Bell Rd Niles, Michigan

HONORS

Continued from page A3

"LMC was my choice because my brother attended LMC and it was local and close to home," Whitfield explained. "And every expectation was fulfilled by the LMC Technical Department. My drafting instructor, Mr. T. Reappa, had a profound impact on my life and career. He was the reason I became a draftsman at Clark Equipment Company," Whitfield said.

A 1974 graduate of LMC, Whitfield built a successful 31-year career with Volvo Construction Equipment. He later pursued further education, earning a bachelor's degree in theology and a Master of Divinity in Counseling from Christian Bible College and Seminary. Today, he serves as pastor of Fellowship Baptist Mission Church, while continuing his work as secretary for the Southwest Michigan Ministerial Alliance and his volunteer efforts with the Benton Township Housing Commission.

Clarence Beckwith Distinguished Service Award

Named in honor of the first President of Lake Michigan College, this award is given to recent alumni who have accomplished significant success in their personal or professional endeavors.

2024 Award Recipient: Dr. Sue Balms, Class of 1991

Dr. Susan Balmes' influence has resonated not just in Southwest Michigan but around the world. Her journey began at Lake Michigan College in 1989, where she earned her associate degree in 1991. She then pursued a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences, followed by master's and doctorate degrees in Biology from Western Michigan University.

Balmes returned to LMC as a faculty member in Biology, serving until her retirement in August 2024. Reflecting on her decision to begin her academic career at LMC, she said, "I attended LMC to explore academic opportunities and earn my associate degree before transferring to a university. Lake Michigan College played a pivotal role in developing my academic and leadership skills."

As a student, Balmes was an active member of Phi Theta Kappa and was nominated for LMC's All-USA Academic Team. Like today's students, she credits her success to the faculty who made a lasting impact on her. "Dr. Paul Stright was an excellent and patient mentor, helping me refine my organizational skills. Mimi Elwell was an outstanding math instructor who built my confidence by nominating me for the All-USA Academic Team," Balmes shared.

Beyond her contributions to students at LMC, Balmes has made a global impact, particularly through her work in Sierra Leone. She played a key role in founding Koinadugu College in that country, helping to secure its accreditation. She continues to serve as a member of Koinadugu College's Board of Trustees and as a Board Member of Project 1808, an initiative dedicated to educational and leadership development in Sierra Leone.

"I am deeply grateful for the opportunities LMC has provided me, both as a student and faculty member, and for the support to introduce Project 1808 to LMC's community," she said. Dr. Susan Balmes' legacy of service and leadership continues to enrich LMC and communities around the globe.

"These individuals embody the spirit of Lake Michigan College," said Dr. Trevor Kubatzke, President of Lake Michigan College. "Their achievements inspire current and future students to dream big and make meaningful contributions in their lives and careers."

The awardees were formally recognized during a special ceremony on December 7 at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center. This annual celebration is part of Lake Michigan College's continued commitment to honoring alumni who uphold the institution's legacy and mission.

The purpose of the Lake Michigan College alumni award program is to recognize LMC alumni who have taken at least 30 semester hours. These awards are given to alumni who have distinguished themselves in their career, service to their community, or Lake Michigan College. To nominate someone for a Lake Michigan College Alumni Award, please complete and submit the Alumni Award Program Nomination Form at https://www.lakemichigancollege.edu/form/alumni-award-nomination.

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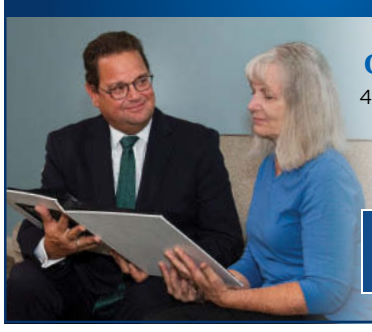
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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A6

around her.

Known as the backbone of her family, Patrica balanced stern discipline with unwavering love and support. She believed in the power of education and encouraged everyone to strive for excellence. She cherished her role as a caregiver and opened her home to countless others.

A dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Patrica leaves behind a legacy of love through her husband, Eddie Forrest I, fourteen children, Eddie Forrest II of Indianapolis, Indiana, Eric Forrest Sr. of South Bend, Indiana, Eliot (Erin) Forrest of Peoria, Illinois, Elise Forrest of Jacksonville, Florida, Ethan (Brooke) Forrest of Logansport, Indiana, Elayna Hudson of Princeton, Texas, Denisha Forrest of Indianapolis, Indiana, Darrien Forrest, Marcellus Forrest, Isaac Forrest, Elijah Forrest, Mikel Forrest, all of Niles, Michigan, Micha Forrest of Indianapolis, Indiana, and Tarisha Boyd of Fort Worth, Texas; forty-two grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; two sisters, Dottie Alford of Indianapolis, Indiana, Sharon Doss of Whitestown, Indiana; and a host of nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her siblings, Theron Hunt, Lavina Evans, Lola Ktabo, Carol Davis, Joseph Hunt, Charles Hunt, Douglas Hunt, and Deborah Sammuel.

Patrica will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Her memory will live on in the hearts of her family, friends, and community.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 12:30 p.m. until time of service at 1:30 p.m. in Church of Cassopolis, 520 Pearl Street, Cassopolis, Michigan. Patricia will be laid to rest in Prospect Hill Cemetery in Cassopolis.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Rest in peace, Wife, Mom, Granny, Auntie, your legacy of love, faith, and strength will forever inspire us.

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Search warrant leads to robbery arrests in Lincoln Township

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

LINCOLN TOWNSHIP — A man and a woman were arrested Tuesday in connection with a robbery that took place in Buchanan Township last month, according to the Berrien County Sheriff's Office.

At approximately 4:03 a.m. Dec. 21, 2024, the Berrien County Sheriff's Office responded to JD's Truck Stop, 1655 Mayflower Rd., Buchanan Township for an armed robbery. A masked man entered the business and demanded money from an employee. The masked man was armed with a pistol that was visible in his coat pocket. The masked man then fled the scene and was not apprehended by law enforcement.

During the investigation it was determined that more than one suspect was involved in the armed robbery. Tuesday, Detectives from the Berrien County Sheriff's Office and Lincoln Township Police served a search warrant at a residence in Lincoln Township. As a result of the search warrant, a 31 year-old male and a 50 year-old female were arrested and lodged at the Berrien County Jail for armed robbery. The names of the accused will be released after their arraignment.

SIGN

Continued from page A1

Tulip-style flowers found on the Pokagon Band seal were placed in the top two corners, purple loosestrife flowers in the bottom two corners and a springcrest flower is located at the center.

"I used a lot of my inspiration from the plants found along the river," Justin said.

The Niles area is known to the Potawatomi as Pawating. When city founders laid out the village plat in the late 1820s, they adopted the name Niles.

The new sign was created to replace an older sign that had deteriorated and displayed misinformation. The former sign mistranslated Pawating as "great crossing."

"It feels really good," Johnson said. "It's been a dream of mine to put work out there, to represent my tribe and to educate people on the area."

According to Dye and Niles History Center Director Christina Arseneau, the collaboration was born out of city residents bringing the state of the old, deteriorated sign to the attention of city leadership.

"That sign had been around for a long time," Arseneau said. "There were some fourth ward citizens that brought it to our attention."

Upon reaching out to the Pokagon Band, both parties were eager to create a fresh, new sign to educate citizens and visitors alike.

"We wanted to make it inviting and durable," Dye said. "It's an opportunity to educate about our culture and heritage and how descriptive our language is. It was a great opportunity. A lot of people don't even know we still exist."

"With our band specifically, our villages were in the Niles-Buchanan area," Malott said. "It is important to get that information out there."

The sign features a QR code that links to information about Pokagon Band history and the pronunciation of the words on the sign. Both Dye and Arseneau aim to build on the completion of the sign project and continue to educate community members on Niles' Indigenous history.

"It's making people aware of history," Arseneau said. "It's important to us and for us to work through (the Pokagon Band) and have it be their wording, their designs, their images that were important to them that reflect their actual history. They have that history here and they're still here. We want to make that connection between the past and the present."

"We share an elaborate history and we're a current presence in the community," Dye said. "It's a sense of pride because we are the original people of this land. History shoved us aside but it is a sense of pride. It's reclaiming the real first name of Niles and putting it out there. With this sign, people may want to investigate and learn the history."

For more information on Pawating, visit wiwkwebthegen.com.

PAWATING
Place of the Rapids
SENATHWEN ZIBÉ
Rocky River
The flags of settlers from four countries flew over this village of Pawating before it became known as Niles in 1829.

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

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Chairman Tom Jerdon and Trustee Becky Moore tour a dorm room recently added to the second and third floors of Keith H. McKenzie Hall.

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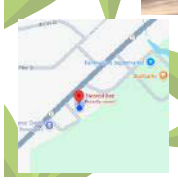
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CAMPUS

Continued from page A1

improvements.

In other business, trustees:

• Set tuition rates for the next three years.

• Approved a new Radiography Technology program shared with other two-year community colleges similar to the MRI Technology and Neurodiagnostic (EEG) Technology degrees SMC now offers.

• Re-elected officers, Chairman Tom Jerdon, Vice Chairman Tracy Hertsel, Secretary Beth Cripe and Treasurer Becky Moore.

• Reviewed a letter from U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., congratulating the college on its 60th anniversary in November.

Dr. Joe Odenwald read Peters' letter as his president's report:

"Dr. Odenwald, congratulations to you and Southwestern Michigan College on celebrating its 60th anniversary. This incredible milestone is a testament to the college's dedication to providing high-quality education empowering students to achieve their full academic potential. Your leadership and dedication in fostering academic excellence and innovation have played a vital role in bettering the college and its community. Congratulations again. I look forward to your continued success," the senator wrote.

> "Dr. Odenwald, congratulations to you and Southwestern Michigan College on celebrating its 60th anniversary. This incredible milestone is a testament to the college's dedication to providing high-quality education empowering students to achieve their full academic potential."
>
> — Sen. Gary Peters

The board also accepted a $20,000 gift to SMC from the AEP Foundation and Indiana Michigan Power to fund the next year of Grady Scholarships and acknowledged 22 donations to the SMC Foundation totaling $47,785, including $35,000 from The McLoughlin Family Foundation of Cassopolis.

Niles Daily Star
Sports

GOT RESULTS?
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TRACK AND FIELD

Niles' Hoskin commits to SMC track and field

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — Izabel Hoskin of Niles High School has signed her NJCAA Letter of Intent to compete in track and field for Head Coach Zac Sartori and the Roadrunners.

Coach Sartori added, "Izzy is a phenomenal sprinter and hurdler and I'm very excited that she's decided to join the Roadrunners. She's going to do some big things for us next year on the track and I'm excited to watch her grow and develop as a competitor."

Hoskin is the third member of the 2025 SMC Women's Track and Field recruiting class, joining Savannah Mullins from Hartford and Dayne Cuvo of Constantine. At least four other student-athletes will compete in both women's cross country and women's track for the Roadrunners.

In April 2024, SMC's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the addition of Women's Wrestling, Men's Track & Field and Women's Track & Field as official NJCAA sports, to start competition in Fall 2025. This expansion will bring the number of NJCAA teams at SMC to nine, plus multiple club and E-sports opportunities.

Student-athletes interested in competing in men's or women's track and field or any other sport as a Roadrunner should complete the Recruiting Form at https://smcroadrunners.com/landing/index.

FOOTBALL

Freeman named George Munger College Coach of the Year

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Garnering his second national Coach of the Year honor, Dick Corbett Head Football Coach Marcus Freeman was named the winner of the George Munger College Coach of the Year Award, presented by the Maxwell Football Club.

Freeman is the second Notre Dame coach to win the Munger Award (Tyrone Willingham, 2002).

Freeman, also the winner of the Dodd Trophy and a finalist for the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award, is in his third season at Notre Dame and has led the Irish to an 13-1 record in 2024, including a First-Round playoff win over Indiana and a Sugar Bowl victory over Georgia, with a No. 3 ranking in the Associated Press (AP) and Coaches Polls, and the No. 7 seed in the 2024 College Football Playoff.

The Irish, currently on a 12-game win streak, move on in the College Football Playoff to face No. 6 Penn State in the Capital One Orange Bowl on Jan. 9, 2025.

Freeman has led Notre Dame to six victories over opponents ranked in the AP Poll at the time of the game this season: No. 20 Texas A&M, No. 15 Louisville, No. 24 Navy, No. 18 Army, No. 9 Indiana and No. 2 Georgia. The CFP victory over Georgia was the 13th ranked win of the Freeman era at Notre Dame, more than any other Irish head coach in the first three years of his tenure, and the second-most of any FBS program over the last three years (Georgia, 14).

Through the season and the Quarterfinal round of the CFP, Notre Dame is first in pass efficiency defense (99.88), first in turnovers gained (31), first in defensive touchdowns (6), first in blocked kicks (6), second in scoring defense (13.6), second in blocked punts (3), third in turnover margin (1.29), third in fumbles recovered (13), fourth in scoring offense (37.7), fourth in interceptions (18), fifth in passing defense (167.4), fifth in red zone defense (0.686), fifth in third down defense (0.299), fifth in fourth down defense (0.333), seventh in passes had intercepted (6), eighth in total defense (295.4), eighth in fourth-down success rate (0.731), eighth in kickoff return defense (15.72) and 11th in rushing offense (217.5).

Freeman named finalist for Bear Bryant Coach of the Year Award

Adding to his 2024 coaching accolades, Dick Corbett Head Football Coach Marcus Freeman has been named a finalist for the Paul "Bear" Bryant Coach of the Year Award, which honors contributions that make the sport better for athletes and fans alike by demonstrating grit, integrity and a winning approach to coaching and life – both on and off the field.

One previous Notre Dame coach has won the Bear Bryant Award: Lou Holtz in 1988.

BASKETBALL

LADY EDDIES' DEFENSE SLOWS DOWN PORTAGE CENTRAL IN 45-27

NON-LEAGUE WIN

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

EDWARDSBURG — Scott Rodeslier knew his Edwardsburg girls basketball team would need a great defensive showing Tuesday to beat visiting Portage Central.

The Lady Eddies didn't disappoint their first-year coach as they held the Mustangs below its season average in a 45-27 win.

Edwardsburg improves to 6-2 overall, while Portage Central falls to 5-2.

"Except for a few little mistakes, I thought our girls did a nice job executing in our first game back from the holiday break," Rodeslier said. "We set defensive goals of holding our opponent below their average. Portage Central came in averaging close to 43 points per game and we held them to 27. I was real pleased with that and I thought we handled their press pretty well too."

Edwardsburg got solid performances at the offensive end of the floor.

Sophomore guard Shelby Laubach paced Edwardsburg with a team-high 15 points to go with five rebounds and three steals.

"Shelby has struggled a bit this year, but I feel like she broke out of that funk tonight with much work over Christmas break on her shooting. It paid off tonight and she made most of her free-throws," Rodeslier said.

Senior guard Maddie Pobuda added 14 points and two assists. Ella Zache finished with six points and six rebounds.

"Ela is a great defensive player for us and hustles all over the court and has been a threat to score as well," Rodeslier added.

Pobuda drained four of her team's six three-point field goals. Laubach and Kya Shier added one triple each.

"Maddie is a good team leader for us and has put up points all year. Shier is real athletic and one of our better defensive players. Eberlein is gaining confidence and getting better every game as a rebounder and shot blocker," Rodeslier said.

Shier contributed five points, two rebounds, a pair of steals and had two assists for Edwardsburg. Kourtney Zarycki had three points, nine boards and four steals for the Lady Eddies. Mya Eberlein tossed in two points to go with four rebounds for the winners.

Edwardsburg shot 15-of-63 from the floor (24 percent) and made 9-of-13 free-throw tries (69.2 percent) compared to Portage Central's 9-for-47 from the field (19.1 percent) and 6-of-16 (38 percent) at the foul stripe.

The Lady Eddies held a 38-23 rebounding advantage over the Mustangs.

Edwardsburg forced Portage Central into 13 turnovers. The Lady Eddies had 15 turnovers themselves.

Pobuda scored five of her points in the first quarter. Her first triple of the night capped off the period and gave Edwardsburg a 12-6 lead.

The Lady Eddies coverted a pair of Mustang turnovers into points and used a 7-2 run to start the second quarter in extending its advantage to 19-8. Layups by Shier and Zache and a Laubach triple highlighted that run by the Lady Eddies.

Laubach's old-fashioned three-point play, Eberlein's short jumper and Pobuda's triple capped off the half and sent the hosts into halftime with a 27-12 lead.

Two more Pobuda triples and one from Shier in the third quarter powered Edwardsburg to a 41-20 lead entering the final stanza.

Portage Central, which suffered its second consecutive loss following a 5-0 start, was led in scoring by junior Karsyn Stephenson with nine points. Kate Bumgarner added eight and Justyce Boeve finished with six.

Edwardsburg returns to Wolverine Conference action at home Friday when it hosts Niles.

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Maddie Pobuda (10) from Edwardsburg attempts a three-point shot under pressure from Portage Central defenders Riley King (12) and Justyce Boeve (20) in the first half Tuesday night.

BOWLING

Niles bowling teams fall in match play at Huskies Invitational

COMMUNITY REPORT

KALAMAZOO — The Niles girls and boys varsity bowling teams traveled to Kalamazoo Continental Lanes Sunday for the Huskies Invitational. The boys competed against eight girls teams and 14 Boys teams from all around the state. Each team bowling tied an individual game and 8 baker games to move into match play.

Niles sophomore Miley Kater placed first in singles with a 339 Series and senior Hunter Kater A placed fifth in individuals with a 401 Series.

The girls team finished sixth and the boys team finished seventh to advance to match play, where the boys fell in the first round. The girls team won their first baker games, tying theHastings and then lost 128-129 in the roll off.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTI WESTON | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

ABOVE: From left to right: Alexis Kidwell, Miley Kater, Kenley Weston, Paris Knight, Maria Rameriz.

RIGHT: From left: Beau Kirkdoll, Gunner Scherer, Shawn Atkins, Gavin Danderand, Adam Jackson, Adian Kidwell, Hunter Kater.

SOFTBALL

ND softball duo named to D100 Freshman Watch List

COMMUNITY REPORT

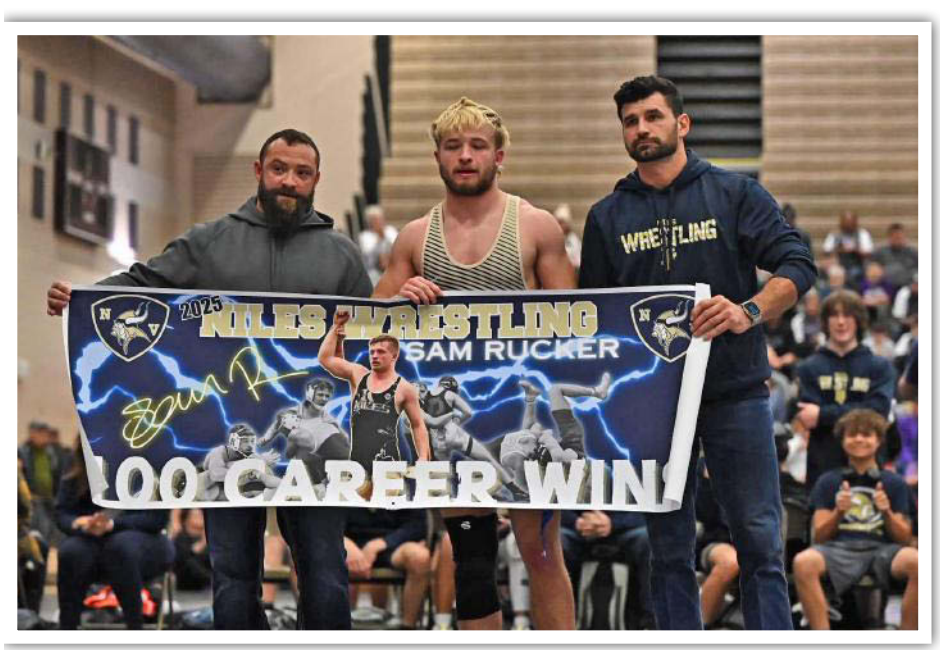
SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Less than a month before the first pitch of the season, freshmen infielder Kaia Cortes and pitcher Brianne Weiss were both named to the D1 Softball D100 Freshman Watch List, announced this morning.

Cortes, hailing from Tampa, Florida, is a left-handed power hitter who could see time at first base this season. During her senior year at Berkeley Preparatory School, Cortes slashed a .523 average, notching eight home runs, 16 doubles and 41 RBI. She was named the Jack and Barbara Thompson Award Winner for Most Outstanding Softball Player in Hillsborough County.

Weiss was dominant in the circle during her high school career. As a senior for Orange Lutheran High School in Orange, California, Weiss went 19-2 with a 0.87 ERA, striking out 245 batters in just 136.1 innings. The southpaw was a Max Preps First Team All-American and the Orange County Softball Pitcher of the Year.

The D100 Freshman Watch List is a true watch list; players are listed alphabetically by team with no numbered rankings attached. The watch list puts an early spotlight on true freshmen who could make an immediate impact on their respective teams.

RUCKER REACHES 100 WINS ON MAT



SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Niles senior wrestler Sam Rucker earned his 100th career win Saturday in Three Rivers.

BASKETBALL

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TANYA HAGEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Niles boys hoops beats Lakeshore 53-42

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

STEVENSVILLE — The Niles boys basketball team took care of business at Lakeshore Friday night.

The Vikings defeated the Lancers 53-42 in their first game of 2025. Niles led 21-12 at halftime and by as many as 23 in the game.

Andre Wells led Niles in scoring with 18 points and added six rebounds and four assists. Brayden Favors added 16 points and three rebounds, Derrick Hill tallied 13 points and four rebounds and Donovyn Williams totaled five points, 10 rebounds and two blocks.

Luke Heyn led Lakeshore with nine points and five assists and Garrett Thomas added eight points.

Niles (5-4) faces Edwardsburg (3-3) at 7:15 p.m. Friday at Edwardsburg.

BASKETBALL

Brandywine girls hoops fights off Trojans 55-45 to win Sturgis Tournament

By Scott Hassinger
Leader Publications
Contributor

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

ABOVE: Brandywine's Adeline Gill (0) shoots over a Sturgis defender.
RIGHT: Niles Brandywine junior Karleigh Byrd (2) gets ready to release a shot against Sturgis in the first half in Friday's game.

STURGIS — Brandywine girls basketball coach Josh Hood understands there are going to be nights when his Lady Bobcats are going to be challenged.

The Jan. 3 championship game against the host team in the finals of the Sturgis Tournament was one of those games. Brandywine (7-0) survived a late Sturgis rally and hung on to record a 55-45 win over the Trojans.

"Sturgis coach (Andy Phillips) has those girls playing really well and they should be really proud of their effort. We've had games where we won by 40 points and suddenly tonight we were in a dogfight and had to play a full 32 minutes. Our legs were a little tired, but that has more to do with how well Sturgis played. It's the first time we've gotten punched in the mouth all season. Give them (Sturgis) credit because they played a great game," Hood said.

Brandywine got off to a strong start, reeling off the game's first seven points. Senior Miley Young led that charge by scoring four of her six points during that span. Senior Ireland Prekert drained a three pointer to put the Bobcats up 16-8 after one quarter.

Adelyn Drotoz's triple and Adeline Gill's hoop underneath expanded Brandywine's lead to 24-9 with just over five minutes left before halftime. Drotoz added another three moments later that gave the Bobcats a 29-13 advantage. Adeline Gill's two free throws closed out the first-half scoring and sent Brandywine into the break with a 31-16 advantage.

Sturgis managed to slow Brandywine down a bit in the third quarter at the offensive end. The Lady Trojans (5-4) began to find a little success breaking the Bobcats' full-court pressure. However, Brandywine still managed to outscore Sturgis 8-6 during the period to grab a 39-22 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Sturgis showed great resilience during the final eight minutes, outscoring Brandywine 23-16. Madison Webb scored six of her team-high 15 points for the Lady Trojans in the fourth while junior teammate Angela Cary scored eight of her 12 points, including a triple. Cary also pulled down some big rebounds for Sturgis in the second half. Sturgis trailed Brandywine by as many as 22 points early in the final period before guard Sydney Bir's bucket for the Lady Trojans lessened the final deficit to just 10 points.

"We did a good job against their press and got some layups, but all of a sudden we freaked out a little and got the ball a little too deep in the corner. We made some mistakes that are uncharacteristic of us, but again that had a lot to do with Sturgis and the good game plan they came in with," Hood said.

Brandywine was paced in the scoring column by Lily Gill with 11 points, while her older sister Adeline Gill finished with 10. Drotoz and Karleigh Byrd added nine points apiece for the winners, who were 23-of-66 from the floor and 5-for-7 at the foul stripe. Sturgis shot 19-of-55 from the field and made 2-of-6 free-throw attempts.

Despite being at a height disadvantage, Brandywine won the rebounding battle 30-24. Byrd snagged eight boards for the Lady Bobcats, while Adeline Gill and sophomore Lily Gill added seven apiece. Webb paced Sturgis with nine rebounds and 6-foot-0 freshman postplayer Cora Phillips added six.

Lily Gill and Byrd added three steals each and Niyah Mason added two.

"I was real proud of the resilience our girls showed in the second half. We dug a bit of a hole there in the first half. We are still learning, but our girls came back and got some key steals and pushed through in the final half and never gave up. We have some natural ability on the court. Brandywine is tough and puts lot of ball pressure on you," said Sturgis coach Andy Phillips.

Brandywine pressured Sturgis into 23 turnovers. The Lady Bobcats coughed the ball up just 12 times.

The Lady Bobcats will practice over the weekend and jump right back into action on the road Monday at Division 1 Kalamazoo Central. Hood says the non-conference test will measure a lot.

"We want to play the best teams around. Not many Division 1 schools want to play Brandywine. We sent an email to the entire Southwestern Michigan Athletic Conference and we got responses from three or four of them. We are thankful for them getting us on the schedule," Hood said.

Brandywine also has regular-season games scheduled with Stevensville-Lakeshore, St. Joseph and Kalamazoo Loy-Norrix who are all members of the SMAC, along with Kalamazoo Central.

DAILY DATA

GIRLS BASKETBALL

BRANDYWINE 60, CENTREVILLE 24
Jan. 2 at Sturgis Holiday Tournament
CENTREVILLE (24): L. Roberts 0, M. Webb 5, M. Stears 0, E. Reed 6, D. Alexander 2, B. Shingledecker 5, L. Reed 6. Totals 8 6-7 24.
BRANDYWINE (60): Adeline Gill 11, Karleigh Byrd 4, Adelyn Drotoz 9, Ireland Prenkert 0, Mackenna Price 9, Lily Gill 6, Lexi Troup 9, Paige Krisler 3, Miley Young 7, Niyah Mason 2. Totals 23 7-10 60.
Centreville 2 12 16 24
Brandywine 31 53 60 60
3-point baskets: Centreville 2 (Shingledecker 1, M. Webb 1), Brandywine 9 (Drotoz 3, Troup 3, Young 2, Krisler 1). Total fouls: Centreville 11, Brandywine 9. Records: Centreville 3-2, Brandywine 6-0.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

BRANDYWINE 55, STURGIS 45
Jan. 3 at Sturgis Holiday Tournament
BRANDYWINE (55): Adeline Gill 10, Karleigh Byrd 9, Adelyn Drotoz 9, Ireland Prenkert 3, Mackenna Price 3, Lily Gill 11, Lexi Troup 0, Paige Krisler 2, Miley Young 6, Niyah Mason 2. Totals 23 5-7 55.
STURGIS (45): Angela Cary 12, Addison Eicher 1, Maddy Webb 15, Kennedy Finnerman 6, Sydney Bir 7, Kenie Eicher 1, Cora Phillips 3. Totals 19 2-6 45.
Brandywine 16 31 39 55
Sturgis 8 16 22 45
3-point baskets: Brandywine 4 (Drotoz 3, Prenkert 1), Sturgis 5 (Cary 2, Webb 1, Bir 1, Phillips 1). Total fouls: Brandywine 12, Sturgis 12. Records: Brandywine 7-0, Sturgis 4-4

LAKESHORE 66, NILES 39
Jan. 3 at Niles
LAKESHORE (66): Megan Wurster 13, Lily Kleiman 6, Paige Lies 20, Aribel Mills 2, Emily Lockman 17, Avery Vroon 8. Totals 29 2-8 66.
NILES (39): Jessie Thornton 5, Tanaya Brown 18, Maddie Zache 5, Kayla Kiggins 6, Mia Holmes 3, Ari Gerrits 2. Totals 14 5-9 39.
Lakeshore 21 33 53 66
Niles 6 20 29 39
3-point baskets: Lakeshore 6 (Lies 4, Wurster 1, Lockman 1), Niles 6 (Kiggins 2, Thornton 1, Brown 1, Zache 1, Holmes 1). Total fouls: Lakeshore 10, Niles 7. Records: Lakeshore 5-1, Niles 1-5

BOYS BASKETBALL

BUCHANAN 74, EAU CLAIRE 24
Jan. 3 at Buchanan
EAU CLAIRE (24): Austyn Crump 10, DaQuarius Travis 4, Kayden Lash 3, Zion Brown 2, Melvin Davis 2, Chris Branch 3. Totals 11 0-0 24.
BUCHANAN (74): Tyler Frame 2, Preston Payne 0, Liam McBeth 7, Tristan Nesbitt 5, Karmine Brown 19, Jake Franklin 7, Darius Williams 4, Logan Wiggins 4, Jaret Seddon 3, Will Carson 12, Owen Thompson 7, Ari Johnson 4. Totals 29 5-10 74.
Eau Claire 7 7 11 24
Buchanan 21 45 57 74
3-point baskets: Eau Claire 2 (Lash 1, Branch 1), Buchanan 11 (Brown 5, Carson 2, McBeth 1, Nesbitt 1, Franklin 1, Seddon 1). Total fouls: Eau Claire 10, Buchanan 6. Records: Eau Claire 1-6, Buchanan 6-3

NILES 54, LAKESHORE 42
Jan. 3 at Stevensville
NILES (53): Quinton King Jr. 0, Brayden Favors 16, Andre Wells Jr. 19, Derrick Hill Jr. 13, Donovyn Williams 5, Ceon Kirtdoll 0. Totals 18 9-10 53.
LAKESHORE (42): Brady Harris 7, Owen Timmons 5, Grant Chase 1, Luke Heyn 9, Garrett Thomas 8, Brayden Holok 7, Alex Toothman 5. Totals 17 3-5 42.
Niles 9 21 40 53
Lakeshore 9 12 26 42
3-point baskets: Niles 8 (Hill 3, Favors 2, Wells 2, Williams 1), Lakeshore 5 (Thomas 2, Harris 1, Timmons 1, Holok 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Niles 7, Lakeshore 18 (Toothman, Timmons). Records:

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Niles 5-4, Lakeshore 3-3
Highlight: Williams had 10 rebounds for Niles.

BRANDYWINE 55, STURGIS 45
Jan. 3 at Sturgis Holiday Tournament
BRANDYWINE (55): Adeline Gill 10, Karleigh Byrd 9, Adelyn Drotoz 9, Ireland Prenkert 3, Mackenna Price 3, Lily Gill 11, Lexi Troup 0, Paige Krisler 2, Miley Young 6, Niyah Mason 2. Totals 23 5-7 55.
STURGIS (45): Angela Cary 12, Addison Eicher 1, Maddy Webb 15, Kennedy Finnerman 6, Sydney Bir 7, Kenie Eicher 1, Cora Phillips 3. Totals 19 2-6 45.
Brandywine 16 31 39 55
Sturgis 8 16 22 45
3-point baskets: Brandywine 4 (Drotoz 3, Prenkert 1), Sturgis 5 (Cary 2, Webb 1, Bir 1, Phillips 1). Total fouls: Brandywine 12, Sturgis 12. Records: Brandywine 7-0, Sturgis 4-4

LAKESHORE 66, NILES 39
Jan. 3 at Niles
LAKESHORE (66): Megan Wurster 13, Lily Kleiman 6, Paige Lies 20, Aribel Mills 2, Emily Lockman 17, Avery Vroon 8. Totals 29 2-8 66.
NILES (39): Jessie Thornton 5, Tanaya Brown 18, Maddie Zache 5, Kayla Kiggins 6, Mia Holmes 3, Ari Gerrits 2. Totals 14 5-9 39.
Lakeshore 21 33 53 66
Niles 6 20 29 39
3-point baskets: Lakeshore 6 (Lies 4, Wurster 1, Lockman 1), Niles 6 (Kiggins 2, Thornton 1, Brown 1, Zache 1, Holmes 1). Total fouls: Lakeshore 10, Niles 7. Records: Lakeshore 5-1, Niles 1-5

BOYS BASKETBALL

BUCHANAN 74, EAU CLAIRE 24
Jan. 3 at Buchanan
EAU CLAIRE (24): Austyn Crump 10, DaQuarius Travis 4, Kayden Lash 3, Zion Brown 2, Melvin Davis 2, Chris Branch 3. Totals 11 0-0 24.
BUCHANAN (74): Tyler Frame 2, Preston Payne 0, Liam McBeth 7, Tristan Nesbitt 5, Karmine Brown 19, Jake Franklin 7, Darius Williams 4, Logan Wiggins 4, Jaret Seddon 3, Will Carson 12, Owen Thompson 7, Ari Johnson 4. Totals 29 5-10 74.
Eau Claire 7 7 11 24
Buchanan 21 45 57 74
3-point baskets: Eau Claire 2 (Lash 1, Branch 1), Buchanan 11 (Brown 5, Carson 2, McBeth 1, Nesbitt 1, Franklin 1, Seddon 1). Total fouls: Eau Claire 10, Buchanan 6. Records: Eau Claire 1-6, Buchanan 6-3

NILES 53, LAKESHORE 42
Jan. 3 at Stevensville
NILES (53): Quinton King Jr. 0, Brayden Favors 16, Andre Wells Jr. 19, Derrick Hill Jr. 13, Donovyn Williams 5, Ceon Kirtdoll 0. Totals 18 9-10 53.
LAKESHORE (42): Brady Harris 7, Owen Timmons 5, Grant Chase 1, Luke Heyn 9, Garrett Thomas 8, Brayden Holok 7, Alex Toothman 5. Totals 17 3-5 42.
Niles 9 21 40 53
Lakeshore 9 12 26 42
3-point baskets: Niles 8 (Hill 3, Favors 2, Wells 2, Williams 1), Lakeshore 5 (Thomas 2, Harris 1, Timmons 1, Holok 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Niles 7, Lakeshore 18 (Toothman, Timmons). Records: Niles 5-4, Lakeshore 3-3
Highlight: Williams had 10 rebounds for Niles.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

BRANDYWINE 50, KALAMAZOO CENTRAL 34
Monday at Kalamazoo
BRANDYWINE (50): Adeline Gill 12, Karleigh Byrd 8, Adelyn Drotoz 7, Mackenna Price 3, Lily Gill 6, Ireland Prenkert 0, Paige Kessler 6, Miley Young 8, Niyah Mson 0. Totals 18 10-25 50.
KALAMAZOO CENTRAL (34): Daviya McCoy 3, Winter Owens 8, Yasmyma Mouales 2, Kynnedi Patterson 3, Marie Chambers 4, Aminiyae Potts 5, Corivese Shephard 8, Mariah Blanks 1. Totals 13 6-12 34.
Brandywine 8 25 42 50
K. Central 13 23 30 34
3-point baskets: Brandywine 4 (Kessler 2, Drotoz 2), Kalamazoo Central 2 (Potts 1, Patterson 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Brandywine 12, Kalamazoo Central 21 (McCoy). Records: Brandywine 8-0, Kalamazoo Central 2-2

BUCHANAN 47, BRIDGMAN 41
Tuesday at Bridgman
BUCHANAN (47): Caitlin Horvath 2, Aspen Berry 2, Evyn Pruett 4, Justyce Cashier 11, Katie Ailes 14, Alyssa Carson 14. Totals 18 6-16 47.
BRIDGMAN (41): Emily Howell 9, Tatyanna Hill 15, Emma Mangold 1, Kate Starbuck 6, Lanie McGrory 10. Melanie Warren 0. Totals 16 7-11 41.
Buchanan 12 25 28 47
Bridgman 5 15 31 41
3-point baskets: Buchanan 5 (Carson 3, Cashier 1, Ailes 1), Bridgman 2 (Howell 2). Total fouls (fouled out): Buchanan 12, Bridgman 15 (Warren). Records: Buchanan 4-4, Bridgman 4-2

DOWAGIAC 44, WATERVLIET 26
At Watervliet
DOWAGIAC (44): Claire Hess 2, Marlie Carpenter 25, Evie Lock 4, Olivia McIntosh 7, Ja'mela Bonds 6. Totals 17 9-20 44.
WATERVLIET (26): Natalie VanLente 3, Addison Smith 1, Aubrey James 6, Moeko Crago 2, Courtney VanLente 4, Riley Preston 4, Daijahnae Hatcher 6, Isabella Bultema 0. Totals 11 2-17 26.
Dowagiac 18 20 33 44
Watervliet 9 11 18 26
3-point baskets: Dowagiac 1 (McIntosh 1), Watervliet 2 (N. VanLente 1, C. VanLente 1). Total fouls: Dowagiac 15, Watervliet 19 (Bultema). Records: Dowagiac 3-4, Watervliet 1-6
CASSOPOLIS 38, MARCELLUS 27
Tuesday at Marcellus
CASSOPOLIS (38): Mackenzie Boyer 2, Jamayla Franklin 6, JaMya Hart 2, Madalynn Yakel 8, Nola Hawkins 3, Madison Nelson 3, Ryley Bowsher 14. Totals 15 4-10 38.
MARCELLUS (27): LaDora BetSurgis 10, Sophia Affrisio 3, Kerrianne O'Connell 6, Josie Adams 2, Emma Melendez 6. Totals 9 9-12 27.
Cassopolis 5 8 27 38
Marcellus 9 17 25 27
3-point baskets: Cassopolis 4 (Bowsher 2, Nelson 1, Hawkins 1), Marcellus 0. Total fouls: Cassopolis 15, Marcellus 12. Records: Cassopolis 3-2 (3-1 Southwest 10), Marcellus 2-3 (2-2 Southwest 10).

EDWARDSBURG 45, PORTAGE CENTRAL 27
Tuesday at Edwardsburg
PORTAGE CENTRAL (27): Karsyn Stephenson 9, Kate Bumgarner 8, Rylee Liang 4, Justyce Boeve 6, Olivia Griswold 0. Totals 9 6-16 27.
EDWARDSBURG (45): Shelby Laubach 15, Ella Zache 6, Maddie Pobuda 14, Kourtney Zarycki 3, Mya Eberlein 2, Kya Shier 5. Totals 15 9-13 45.
P. Central 6 12 20 27
Edwardsburg 12 27 41 45
3-point baskets: Portage Central 3 (Stephenson 2, Bumgarner 1), Edwardsburg 6 (Pobuda 4, Laubach 1, Shier 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Portage Central 13 (Boeve), Edwardsburg 13. Records: Portage Central 5-2, Edwardsburg 6-2

BOYS BASKETBALL

BRANDYWINE 64, BRIDGMAN 60 (OT)
Tuesday at Niles
BRIDGMAN (60): Ethan Stine 5, Teddy Ippel 0, Wade Haskins 20, Chuck Pagel 11, Andrew Mabry 8, Jared Schroeder 16, Ty Adams 0. Totals 23 5-7 60.
BRANDYWINE (64): Nylen Goins 19, Elighia Burt 14, Will Hubbard 4, Ryder Richard 20, Emerson Gogley 7, Mason Michelin 0, Jordan Hester 0. Totals 24 10-16 64.
Bridgman 21 35 45 53 60
Brandywine 15 36 45 53 64
3-point baskets: Bridgman 9 (Haskins 4, Schroeder 4, Stine 1), Brandywine 6 (Richard 3, Burt 3). Total fouls (fouled out): Bridgman 17 (Ippel, Pagel), Brandywine 7. Records: Bridgman 6-2, Brandywine 4-4

WATERVLIET 69, DOWAGIAC 51
Tuesday at Watervliet
DOWAGIAC (51): Jamal Williams 0, Lamone Moore Jr. 9, Braylon Wade 4, Devin Rock 3, Isaiah Fitchett 24, Kaleb Smith 0, Chase Frazier 4, Riley McCaffery 7. Totals 17 13-26 51.
WATERVLIET (69): Caleb Jewell 6, Jacob Querfurth 7, Jacob Pleyer 31, Emmett Williams 13, Owen Epple 2, Collin 0. Totals 25 10-15 69.
Dowagiac 17 28 40 51
Watervliet 18 30 51 69
3-point baskets: Dowagiac 4 (Fitchett 2, Moore Jr. 1, Rock 1), Watervliet 9 (Pleyer 5, Williams 2, Epple 2). Total fouls (fouled out): Dowagiac 17, Watervliet 21 (Epple). Records: Dowagiac 0-9, Watervliet 4-5

EDWARDSBURG 62, SOUTH BEND ADAMS 60
Tuesday at South Bend
EDWARDSBURG (62): Joe Shively 2, Brody Schimpa 27, Conor Solarek 7, Blaise Crist 6, Michael Wright 0, Reed Gates 4, Matt Anders 16. Totals 23 10-18 62.
SOUTH BEND ADAMS (60): Carter Johnston 8, Lemonz Jones 7, Kalen Allen 15, Drew Dixon 2, Jarvis Tolbert 26, Michael Barr 2. Totals 23 11-21 60.
Edwardsburg 10 22 46 62
S.B. Adams 12 27 38 60
3-point baskets: Edwardsburg 6 (Schimpa 6), South Bend Adams 3 (Tolbert 2, Allen 1). Total fouls: Edwardsburg 19, South Bend Adams 21. Records: Edwardsburg 7-1, South Bend Adams 8-2.

Broadband expansion progresses

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

ST. JOSEPH — Broadband expansion is continuing in Berrien County, Berrien County Commissioners learned at their weekly meeting Thursday morning.

County commissioners have been working for several years to expand broadband to rural and unserved parts of the county. Those efforts have included challenging Federal Communications Commission coverage maps as well as leveraging American Rescue Plan Act funds to expand internet services.

BC Bit Taskforce member and County Commissioner Jim Curran noted that the taskforce continues to meet monthly as they did last week.

"We're still moving right along with broadband in the county," he told fellow commissioners.

County Administrator Brian Dissette noted that Berrien County's efforts in the area of broadband expansion have not gone unnoticed.

"Berrien County has been recognized by the Michigan Association of Counties as a statewide model," he said. "We want to keep that momentum going. It's a point of pride for us."

Commissioner and Vice-Chair Teri Freehling chairs the BC Bit taskforce. She said the taskforce is currently looking at how to assist internet service providers in applying for new state and federal funding. She said the application period for BEAD grants opened Thursday and runs until April 9.

She said the grant program allows internet service providers put together plans on how they will reach all remaining unserved households. She said there has been discussion about hosting a meeting with local municipal officials and internet service providers to facilitate possible grant applications.

Dissette noted that the county's BC Bit web page has up to date information on broadband service in the county. The map shows what areas have broadband service, what areas are in the process of getting service and what areas remain unserved.

> "The good news is that we're getting close," Dissette said. "My gut feeling is that this is it for funding. It's shocking how far we've gone in five years with broadband brought to thousands of addresses."
>
> **— Brian Dissette**

"The good news is that we're getting close," Dissette said. "My gut feeling is that this is it for funding. It's shocking how far we've gone in five years with broadband brought to thousands of addresses."

The current broadband expansion effort comes from an earlier ROBIN grant program. Michigan Energy and Communications, based in Cassopolis, won a multi-million dollar award in 2023 to bring broadband to over 5,700 homes in Berrien County. Berrien County as well as local municipalities contributed part of their ARPA money to that effort and work is ongoing.

Thursday's county board meeting also featured a discussion of the county's opioid settlement taskforce and subcommittees. Dissette noted that the county's share of the nationwide opioid settlement is $8.2 million over 18 years with funding going to organizations involved in drug treatment and addiction programs.

The county is currently seeking members for the committee tasked with the annual review of the organizations receiving the settlement funds. Dissette and Commission Julie Wuerfel said that the county has only received three applications for 10 openings on the committee.

The county is looking for members of the public as well as representatives of treatment, mental health, education, clergy and medical care organizations.

Two arrested, one hospitalized in LaGrange Township shooting

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

LAGRANGE TOWNSHIP — A woman was hospitalized following a shooting Sunday night in LaGrange Township, according to the Cass County Sheriff's Office. Two men were arrested in connection with the shooting and are facing charges.

Sheriff Clint Roach reports that on January 5, 2025 at approximately 7:24 p.m. Sunday, deputies of the Cass County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to Ascension Borgess Lee Hospital for a 42 year-old female who was suffering from a gunshot wound. The victim reported being shot at a property in the 57000 block of O'Keefe Road in Cass County's LaGrange Township. The victim was transported by ambulance to Ascension Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo for her injuries where she is currently in the ICU.

Information was received that the suspects in the shooting could be located at a property in the 57000 block of M051 Hwy. Deputies responded to this property and took a 21 year-old male and a 24 year-old male into custody without incident. Both male suspects' names are being withheld pending arraignment on the charges in the 4th District Court. A search warrant was executed in the 57000 block of O'Keefe Rd. where the incident occurred. This is still an ongoing investigation. There was only one single victim, and this incident is not a random act so there is no threat to the public.

Assisting agencies were Michigan State Police, Pokagon Tribal Police, Dowagiac Police, and SMCAS.

Anyone with any information regarding this case is asked to contact the Cass County Sheriff's Office 269-445-1560, CCSO Tip Line at 1-800-462-9328 or you can anonymously on our website at cassco.org.

Two men arrested in connection with Pokagon Township tree theft

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

POKAGON TOWNSHIP — Two men who stole a tree in Pokagon Township in an attempt to sell it were arrested Tuesday in Colon, according to the Cass County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Clint Roach reports that on Saturday, Jan. 4, his office was called regarding a larceny complaint. A large Walnut Tree valued at approximately $2,000 that had been previously cut down was stolen. This larceny occurred in the 61000 block of Old Mill Road in Pokagon Township. Deputies and detectives began to investigate and follow up on tips received.

Tuesday, Jan. 7, detectives responded to a location in Colon along with St. Joseph County Sheriffs Office on information of the suspects were attempting to sell the tree. The stolen tree was located and returned to the owner. A 35-year-old male was arrested on a probation violation warrant. A 51-year-old male was arrested on a parole absconder warrant. Detectives are requesting charges on all suspects involved in the larceny and sale of the tree. Agencies assisting with the investigation were the Cass County Drug Enforcement Team, and St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office. This investigation is still ongoing at this time.

Anyone with information regarding this case or any other criminal activity is asked to call the Cass County Sheriff's Office Tip Line at 1-800-462-9328 or contact the Sheriff's Office through the Anonymous Web Tip Line at www.ccso.info.

IU South Bend names new chancellor

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND, ind. — Brian Pappas has been named chancellor of the Indiana University South Bend campus effective July 1.

He will replace former Chancellor Susan Elrod, who retired in December. A search committee was named in August to identify candidates for the campus role.

"Brian Pappas brings a wealth of academic, administrative and professional experience that makes him an exceptional fit to lead IU South Bend," said Pamela Whitten, president of Indiana University. "His collaborative leadership style, commitment to student success, and experience in fostering community partnerships will serve the campus and the region well, and I look forward to welcoming him to the IU community."

Since 2022, Pappas has served as dean of the University of North Dakota School of Law, where he improved bar passage and student employment rates. He previously served as associate provost and associate vice president for faculty affairs at Eastern Michigan University and as a law professor at Michigan State University. Pappas has supported undergraduate success throughout his career by advancing high-impact experiential learning opportunities for students, curricular revisions, and improved advising and course scheduling.

Pappas is an interdisciplinary scholar whose work includes research on formal and informal conflict management systems. He served as a multi-country Fulbright Scholar in 2021-23 with segments in Japan, Greece and Denmark. He holds a doctoral degree in public administration from the University of Kansas, a Juris Doctor from Wayne State University, and additional degrees from the University of Missouri and the University of Michigan.

"I am truly impressed by IU South Bend's strong sense of community, commitment to student success and deep connections to the region," Pappas said. "I'm excited to work alongside the talented faculty, students and staff, as well as local leaders and partners, to build on the campus's strengths, create innovative partnerships and drive transformational change that benefits the region and beyond."

The chancellor is responsible for all aspects of the academic, student, financial, development and administrative dimensions of the campus. As the oldest and largest regional campus, IU South Bend has a mission focused on regional impact, partnership and transformation.

The campus enrolls approximately 4,600 students, offering undergraduate and master's programs across six schools — and the IU School of Social Work — organized under two colleges, the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Professional Studies. It has six varsity sports teams and campus housing, plus nearly 200 full-time faculty members.

"IU South Bend enjoys a strong history of leadership excellence, and Brian's experience and track record promise to continue that tradition," said Ken Iwama, IU vice president for regional campuses and online education. "As he takes the helm, IU South Bend will continue to prioritize student success for undergraduate and graduate students, preparing them for careers and opportunities in the South Bend region and beyond."

During the transition period through July 1, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Andy Williams will serve as interim deputy chancellor for the South Bend campus. Prior to his appointment in 2022, Williams served in various leadership positions at Ivy Tech Community College for over 21 years, including serving as interim chancellor at the Ivy Tech South Bend Elkhart campus.

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Miscellaneous For Sale

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Miscellaneous Services

AUCTION
Johannesburg Firearm Timed-online Auction. Bidding ends Jan. 20. Over 600 fine firearms, ammo, and hunting accessories. Bid @ JohnPeckAuctions.com. Offices Gladwin & Charlotte. Selling guns? Call 989-345-4866. Michigan's premier firearm auctioneers since 1979.

January online auctions bidding open. Sports memorabilia, cards, rings, jerseys and more. Estate auction, muzzleloader, snowblower, appliances, furniture, collectibles and more! To bid, see entire catalogs visit Bid.SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com. Questions? Call 1-800-835-0495.

BUSINESS SERVICES
METAL ROOFING regular and shingle style, HALF OFF SPECIAL COLORS! Lifetime hail asphalt shingles. Vinyl siding. Licensed and insured builders for 40 years. AMISH CREW. 517-575-3695.

MATTRESSES
Adjustable Bed Brand New with mattress. Made in U.S.A, in plastic, with warranty. Retail Cost $3,995.00 sacrifice for $875.00 Call for showing or delivery: DanDanTheMattressMan.com. 989-923-1278

MISCELLANEOUS
Amish-built mini-cabins starting at $5,295. Made in Michigan! We deliver statewide. Call 989-832-1866. MyNextBarn.com.

AMISH-built storage sheds starting at $2,500. We deliver anywhere in Michigan! Call 989-832-1866. DanDanTheMattressMan.com

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-855-922-0420 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-888-718-1856

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-369-2501

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-844-587-8518

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-691-4117 today!

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 888-815-6233

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to $600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-844-700-4986

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-855-504-0056

We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-833-324-2582

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Call 269-591-6105.

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Call 269-591-6105.

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Residential & Commercial
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•Chimney Repairs
•Vent Pipes•Gutters•Sidings
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EAGER BEAVER TREE SERVICE
FREE ESTIMATES!!!
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•SEASONED FIREWOOD
SAME DAY SERVICE, EXCELLENT CLEAN-UP
*60 & 80 FT. BUCKET TRUCK
FULLY INSURED.
PLEASE CALL 574-848-5845.

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice Aloha Storage located at 3001 South 11th Street Niles MI 49120 intends to hold an auction of storage units in default of payment. The sale will occur at the facility on 1/20/2025 at 12:00PM. Unless otherwise stated in the below list of Unit #'s the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Unit #N014. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice.

Niles Daily Star:
Jan. 4 and 11, 2025
L2L-55764

PUBLIC NOTICE

The January 4, 2025, Bertrand Charter Township Board Special Meeting draft minutes have been posted at the Bertrand Charter Township Hall, 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, MI 49107 and on the township website (bertrandtwpmi.gov). Respectfully, Polly White, Clerk Bertrand Charter Township

Niles Daily Star:
Jan. 11, 2025
MINUTES

PUBLIC NOTICE

AUCTION
Niles Storage, 2457 Yankee St. Niles, MI. 49120 January 25, 2025 @ 4:00 pm Owner's lien - overdue rents

Unit # 89 Chris Ingle Tools, Game tables, Misc items
Unit #29 Dale Clifton
Fishing equip, household items, Tools

Niles Daily Star:
Jan. 11 and 18, 2025
STORAGE AUCTION

DEALS ON WHEELS

0 DOWN DELIVERS!

ON THE SPOT APPROVAL

2006 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LT 4 X 4
Cash and carry special
Only $3,900

2013 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM
Just in!!
Every option, super low miles
Only $9,900

TOYOTA SIENNA LE
Leather, moonroof, looks, runs, and drives great
Only $9,900

PONTIAC SOLSTICE
Low miles, great shape…Nice car to drive to car shows
Only $13,900

2015 HONDA CIVIC LX CVT
Automatic with backup camera, cruise control and amazing gas mileage!
Only $13,900

2021 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
Low miles, amazing gas mileage!
Only $14,900

2018 CHEVY COLORADO EX-CAB
Just in! Perfect delivery truck with a Tommy lift gate
Only $15,900

2020 CHEVY TRAX
Lease unit with only 39,000 miles
Only $17,900

2020 HYUNDAI IONIQ
Gets 60 MPG!!
Only $17,900

2022 CHEVY MALIBU LT
Just in!!
MOONROOF BABY!!
Only $18.900

2018 TOYOTA RAV 4 4 X 4
Just in!!
These sell fast…
Only $19,900

2018 RAM PRO MASTER CITY
Just in!! Save thousands on this 59,000 mile gas saver
Only $19,900

2019 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW HIGH COUNTRY 4 X 4
Jacked up Duramax with every toy!
Must See!!

2013 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED
Just in!!
It's a cheap jeep
Only $19,900

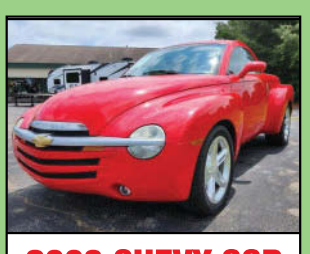
2018 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD
Just in!! One owner, every option, low, low miles
Only $21,900

2019 KIA STINGER
OH BABY!!
Only $23,900

2021 TOYOTA RAV 4 AWD
Just in!!
Loaded with options, not price
Only $24,900

2021 VOLKSWAGEN ID4
GO ELECTRIC
Only $25,900

2020 CHEVY TAHOE 4 X 4
Just in!!
Save thousands
Only $27,900



2003 CHEVY SSR
BIG BLOCK, SUPER RARE
Only 43,000 miles
Only $29,900

2021 CHEVY COLORADO 4 X 4
Just in!!
Off lease, one owner
Only $29,900

2020 JEEP WRANGLER 4 X 4
Just in!!
Off lease, only 33,000 miles
Only $29,900

2024 GMC TERRAIN SLT AWD
Just in!!
Loaded moonroof with teen miles..
MSRP over $41,000
Only $31,900

2021 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE L LIMITED
Just in!! Off lease, 1 owner, like new
EVERY OPTION!
Only $33,900

2020 CHEVY EXPRESS EXTENDED CARGO
Just in!!
Very rare. 6.0 litre V-8. Only 47,000 miles
Only $34,900

2017 FORD F-150 CREW PLATINUM 4 X 4
Just in!! Mint condition with every option & super low miles
Only $34,900

2016 FORD F-250 XLT 4 X 4
Crew cab, long box
Only $34,900

2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW Z-71
Oh So Purdy!
Only $41,900

2020 CHEVY SILVERADO LT CREW 4 X 4
Diesel,
Super low miles
Save thousands!
Only $45,900

2020 FORD EXPEDITION LIMITED MAXI 4 X 4
Every option, super condition.
Get ready for winter now
Only $49,900

SEE A STAR IT'S A 1 OWNER CAR

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